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EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The French commercial mission has sailed for China.

Singapore was declared free from cholera on the 13th inst.

The funeral of the late Sultan of Johore took place on the 7th inst.

Several vessels crossing the Formosa Channel on the 18th and 19th inst. encountered a severe typhoon.

A railway is to be made from Manila to Subic, as a state line, and at Subic a dock is to be constructed.

Seven of the Kucheng murderers were executed on the 17th inst. The trials have since been resumed.

The annual meeting of the Douglas Steamship Co., Limited, was held on Saturday, when the report and accounts were passed.

The latest news of the *Belgie*, stranded near Mela Ledge, Tokyo Bay, does not hold out much prospect of the vessel's being got off.

The Shanghai Municipal Council's 5 per cent. debenture loan for Tls. 75,000 was allotted on the 17th inst. at an average of 100.048 per cent.

The ratifications of the new Russian treaty with Japan were formally exchanged between the Plenipotentiaries at Tokyo on the 10th inst.

It is reported that the Korean Cabinet has decided to make a certain district in Seoul a place of mixed residence for Japanese and natives. It has also been decided that foreigners shall be permitted to own land in the suburbs of Seoul within the limit of ten Korean miles.

The Basel Mission station at Moilim, near Swatow, has been looted by a band of local insurgents, who are creating disorder in the district. The missionaries had been withdrawn before the looting took place. The affair has created great indignation in Germany, according to a Reuter's telegram.

The amalgamation scheme of the Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co., Jardine's Wharves and their Pootung Kerosine Oil Wharf and Godowns, has been made public. It is proposed to increase the capital of the company to Tls. 2,000,000, to issue more debentures, to issue three shares of Tls. 100 each for every old share, and to issue a further lot of shares by tender to the present shareholders or otherwise.

A Peking telegram of the 15th inst. to the Japan papers states that the draft Convention concerning the retrocession of the Liaotung peninsula was delivered to the Chinese plenipotentiaries that day by Mr. Hayashi, Japanese Minister to China. A Reuter's telegram states that Germany has decided to support the Russian and French endeavours to hasten the evacuation of the Peninsula by the Japanese troops.

According to a Reuter's telegram of the 17th inst. the French have ordered the people of Kiangtung to either accept French authority or to cross to the right bank of the Mekong. The Kiangtung mentioned is apparently King-tong, a district of Yunnan ceded by China to France by the recent treaty. The ratification of the treaty has not yet been announced, but France is evidently acting upon its provisions.

Sir Arthur Nicolson and Mr. Henry Howard have been mentioned as possible successors to Sir Nicholas O'Connor as British Minister to Peking and a Shanghai evening paper makes the definite statement that the appointment has been offered to Sir Robert Hart. The reports in circulation, however, rest, we believe, on nothing more substantial than surmise.

The annual report of the China Traders' Insurance Co., Limited, for the year ended 30th April, shows that the net premia amounted to \$1,095,865 and the working account shows a balance at credit of \$530,727, which sum the directors recommend be appropriated in the following manner:—A dividend of 20 per cent. to shareholders, \$120,000; a dividend of 15 per cent. on contributions, \$120,000; to be carried to new account, \$290,727.

The advance of the Japanese army in Formosa has been delayed by bad weather, but it is expected that news will be received in a few days of the surrender or defeat of the Black Flag General, Lin Yung-fu, and that Japanese authority will be completely established. It is reported that at a council of war presided over by the Commander-in-Chief it has been decided to close all the ports at present "open" in South Formosa, including Anping, Takow, and Tainan-fu. The ports named will be declared closed from the early part of next month. Presumably the closing would be only temporary.

Some uneasiness has been caused at Hankow and Wuchang. It was reported that the garrison at the latter place was to be largely reduced. To this the men objected and threatened in the event of the order being carried out to revolt and go for the yamens and foreign residences. The prospects were sufficiently alarming to lead to the removal of all foreign ladies and children from Wuchang to the Concession, and also the girls' boarding school belonging to the American Mission. The *Firebrand* was at Hankow so there was no particular anxiety on that side, and so far no outbreak at Wuchang has been reported.

A native paper publishes a rumour which upon enquiry we (*N. C. Daily News*) are inclined to believe is in the main correct, although the figures are probably excessive. It is averred that the Viceroy Chang is now in correspondence with Governor Chao of Soochow for the establishment of a Bureau for the encouragement of manufactures after modern methods. It is proposed that the provincial Government guarantee a foreign loan of ten million taels as a sinking fund and that a further sum of Tls. 2,500,000 for working capital be lent from the provincial Government treasury. This large sum is to be the capital for the establishment of five cotton spinning mills and five silk filatures. The official Directors are to be the Provincial Treasurer and Customs Taotais this side of the Yangtze, and the commercial Directors are to consist of several of the most influential among the mercantile classes in Shanghai and Soochow. Tls. 3,000,000 are to be employed for the establishment of silk filatures and Tls. 7,000,000 for cotton spinning mills, the interest on the loan to be at most six and at least five per cent. per annum. These ten establishments are to be farmed out to as many syndicates, the members of which are to pass a satisfactory examination as to resources in private capital, etc., by the commercial Directors of the said Bureau.

BIRTHS.

At London, on the 22nd August, the wife of CARL JANTZEN, of a son. [1971]

At Kakchieli, Swatow, on the 14th instant, the wife of DAVID MACHAFFIE, of a daughter. [1959]

At "Hillside," the Peak, on the 24th inst., the wife of W. CHATHAM, of a son. [2002]

DEATHS.

At Pakhoi, on Monday, 9th September, 1895, MARY LOUISE, daughter of Rev. E. B. and Mrs. BEAUCHAMP, aged 7 months. [1982]

At Kakchieli, Swatow, on the 16th instant, the infant daughter of DAVID MACHAFFIE. [1960]

At Tientsin, on Thursday, the 12th inst., GEORGE TOM BAKER, Gunner, R.N., of H.M.S. *Swift*, of gastritis.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The English Mail of the 23rd August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Rosetta*, on the 19th September (27 days); and the German Mail of the 30th August arrived, per N. D. L. steamer *Karlsruhe*, on the 25th September (26 days).

LI HUNG-CHANG.

Some little speculation has been excited as to whether the permanent transfer of LI HUNG-CHANG to Peking as Grand Secretary (virtual Prime Minister) is really promotion for the veteran ex-Viceroy. There is no doubt that as Viceroy of Chihli with an army at his back which was known to be devoted to him, LI HUNG-CHANG was practically beyond the reach of intrigue; and could afford to despise the enemies he necessarily made in the capital. Censors might memorialise and nobles might intrigue, but in vain; the material force behind the Viceroy was a guarantee against any overt attempt either on his personal liberty or his freedom of action. The Censors might prove him guilty of corruption and convict some of his tools of grossest dishonesty, but the EMPEROR dared not proceed to exact a penalty. His Imperial Majesty knew well that Li was indispensable, and the Manchu officials have not been able yet to strike a blow at either the power or the influence of the great satrap. The despatch of Li to Japan to conduct the peace negotiations, and the appointment of WANG to be Acting Viceroy of Chihli would, it was expected, afford the enemies of the latter an opportunity to secure his final supercession. This idea was of course based upon the assumption that Li would be unable to obtain "peace with honour," and that he would be compelled to yield terms that would drag China into an abyss of humiliation. Thanks, however, in the first place to the attempt on his life by a Japanese fanatic, which only resulted in a painful but not serious wound, in return wherefor he obtained great concessions from a generous enemy; and, secondly, in consequence of the uncalculated interference of France and Russia, whereby the cession of the Liaotung Peninsula was abandoned, Li emerged from the trial with more credit than could be expected, much to the discomfort of hostile mandarins at Peking. But though their secret machinations were again and again defeated the enemies of the ex-Viceroy still hoped for some chance to overthrow him. His army was at least a vanished quantity; he could no longer refuse to go to Peking on one plea or another. Nevertheless the desired chance has not yet come, though we note that the anti-Li party have just scored a point against him. It is stated that, in order to prevent His Excellency from using his influence with the EMPEROR, they have induced His Majesty to decree that in future he is not to memorialise the Throne singly, but must do so in conjunction with some other person of equal rank with himself. It is hoped by his envious colleagues that his predominating influence has been destroyed, and the first step towards securing his effacement been secured.

Time will show whether the enemies of the Grand Secretary have correctly gauged the effect of this measure. Meantime LI HUNG-CHANG has taken up his residence in the capital, whither when Viceroy he was so chary of his visits. He has now no longer any bodyguard, and has to trust to the gratitude of the EMPEROR for his past services. He is enormously rich, and can no doubt buy his continuance in the Imperial favour, but the possession of great

wealth in China is not always a source of strength. It only serves to make its owner the target for persecution and squeezing. Possibly LI HUNG-CHANG is for the present secure from this process, but it is by no means certain that he will be left unmolested long, especially when the pinch becomes more acute. Like his brother LI HAN-CHANG, the ex-Viceroy of Chihli would no doubt have preferred, after the conclusion of the Chino-Japanese Treaty of Peace, and of the Commercial Treaty still to be negotiated, to retire to his native province of Anhwei, where he has invested most of his vast savings. But he has not been allowed to lay down the cares of state, and though in the evening of his days, with the infirmities of age creeping thickly upon him, he has still to bear the brunt of affairs. Yet in a sense he has disappeared from the forefront of the political stage; and he will hardly again step forward as sole arbiter of China's foreign relations.

Whether Li's reduction to one among many Ministers instead of being virtual dictator will prove beneficial in the conduct of China's foreign relations it is at present impossible to predict. For our own part we doubt whether it will make any material difference. It might once have done so, when there were several men of comparative ability and greater patriotism in China, such for instance as the Marquis TSENG, TING JIH-CHANG, and TSENG KWOFAN, available to replace him. Now, however, most of the mandarins are mediocrities, and very few indeed but are most severely afflicted with the itch for squeezing which possesses the ordinary Chinese official. CHANG CHIH-TUNG, the present Viceroy of the Two Kiang, stands almost alone in disregard for filthy lucre, which has, however, been in a measure in his case counterbalanced by a reckless expenditure over projects better conceived than carried out. But he is the exception that proves the rule in China: his fellow officials are as much wedded to the squeeze system as he is devoted to the classics. The public service is crowded with officials who have graduated in the school of LI HUNG-CHANG, and of whom the notorious SHENG Taotai is a bright example. It may truly be said of the Government of China that "the whole head is sick, the whole heart is sore." Rotten to the core, saturated through with dishonesty, there is absolutely no hope for China until she has gone through a period of training to fit her people for the task of self-government. Of the utter hopelessness of endeavouring to secure any upright or even civilised administration the latest development of the Kucheng difficulty affords a most significant proof. A number of the principal prisoners have been allowed to escape, undoubtedly by the connivance of the officials. They have bribed the judges and gaolers, and have obtained their liberty with the greatest ease. In face of the facts exposed to view during the past two years: the impotence of Peking to grapple with the first foreign foe that comes prepared to strike, and the crass unwillingness of the officials to make atonement for wrongs and injuries sustained, what is the use of further parleying with treacherous semi-savage mandarins whose one idea of justice is the decapitation of ignorant coolies and the payment of a meagre money indemnity as solatium for any outrage, however foul and wanton? The time has gone by for the endless wordy warfare in which the Chinese so much delight; it has become necessary to act. Is it not the business of the China Association and the British communities in China to endeavour to convince Lord SALISBURY of the fact?

SIR NICHOLAS O'CONOR'S SUCCESSOR.

Who is to be Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR's successor at Peking? So far no clue has been afforded to the choice of the Foreign Office. The probability is that it will fall on some one hitherto unconnected with China, for the policy of promoting a member to the Consular Service to the Legation appears to have been definitely abandoned, besides which there is at present no member of that service who stands out conspicuously as having established any claim to the appointment, with the possible exception of Mr. HILLIER, Consul-General in Korea, and he, it is believed, is not ambitious for it, owing to considerations of health. Sir CHALONER ALABASTER, who retired some years ago, his last appointment having been that of Consul at Canton, would probably have made a good Minister. He is one of the few Chinese scholars who have not acquired the habit of looking at things through Chinese spectacles and who always maintained a proper attitude of firmness and dignity in dealing with the Chinese officials. We believe, however, that his retirement is definitive and that there are reasons which would prevent his resuming active service, and in any case the Foreign Office would probably think there were members of the diplomatic service having superior claims. Whoever comes it is to be hoped he will be a strong man, not a mere blusterer who will expend his energies in wrangling with the Tsung-li Yamen, but one who will make his will known and have sufficient force of character to make his will respected. At present British interests at Peking lie in the dust, and a good man is required to raise them to the position their importance demands.

The question whether the Minister should be a Chinese scholar or one who has never come under the influence of Chinese ways of thought has often been discussed and so far it remains an open one. Both classes have been tried and both have proved failures. We have had Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK and Sir THOMAS WADE as representatives of the sinologues, neither of whom could by any stretch of the imagination be termed a successful Minister. Sir HARRY PARKES was a man of a different stamp, but his tenure of office, cut short by death, was too brief for him to prove whether he would have been as successful in China as he was in Japan. Then came Sir JOHN WALSHAM, followed by Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR, neither of them a sinologue, and they have been even more unsuccessful than were Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK and Sir THOMAS WADE. If it were necessary to strike a balance it would be found in favour of the latter. If the Chinese scholar is apt to make too great concessions to the Chinese, to allow a glamour of orientalism to confuse his mental vision, and to permit himself to be drawn into endless discussions leading to nothing, on the other hand a man who comes to his task with no special knowledge of the Chinese character and with the idea that the Tsung-li Yamen is to be negotiated with on the same terms and conditions as European diplomatists is apt to make egregious mistakes and be generally befooled out of sheer ignorance. Sir NICHOLAS O'CONOR has been in the habit of going to the Tsung-li Yamen and storming, fuming, and wrangling by the hour, indeed almost by the day if all reports are to be credited, but all to no purpose. After one of these stormy interviews a paragraph may appear in the Shanghai papers to the effect that the Minis-

ter has taken up a very determined attitude; but the members of the Yamen laugh in their sleeve and allow the Minister to go on ineffectually beating his wings against the impassable barrier that separates him from real contact with them. The suggestion has already been made in these columns that our diplomatic negotiations with China should be placed under the control of the Indian Government. If that be too great a change to make, it would at least be an advantage to select for the Minister to Peking an official who has received his training in India, where a man acquires knowledge of oriental character and experience in the proper methods of dealing with it. Such a man we might expect to find free on the one hand from the subservience and disturbed mental balance which characterise the sinologue, and on the other hand from the ignorance of the peculiar conditions of oriental diplomacy which seems to render a man fresh from the atmosphere of European courts useless at Peking.

RAILWAYS TO YUNNAN FROM BURMAH AND TONKIN.

The treaty recently concluded between France and China, giving France the right, amongst other things, to extend her Tonkin railways across the frontier into Yunnan, naturally directs attention to the oft mooted project of a railway from Burmah to Yunnan. In the last number of the *Nineteenth Century* Mr. HOLT S. HALLETT has an article on the subject, which is traversed by the *Rangoon Gazette*. It is of course most desirable that England should not be left behind in the race for the opening up of new markets, but on the other hand it is equally undesirable that we should enter into competition with our Gallic neighbours in unremunerative undertakings, or in a chase after a will of the wisp. The French already have a line from Phulangthuong to Langson and it is their intention to extend it from the latter place to Lungchow. Mr. HALLETT's great objection to the French line is that British goods would be shut out by hostile tariffs. So far as the Lungchow line is concerned that could not be the case. The West River route would compete with it and if the French chose to shut out British goods the only effect would be that they would deprive themselves of a lucrative traffic. They could refuse to carry the goods, but they could not shut them out, though they would be very glad to do so if they could. In the case of the Red River route they have chosen to cater for the traffic and the bulk of the goods going by that route are British. Had they chosen to shut out foreign goods by hostile tariffs the Red River route would have been practically unused. Our Rangoon contemporary says:—"While the French line was the only means of ingress to Western China our goods would be excluded, but immediately we completed our own line this barrier of the French hostile tariffs would cease to operate, French and British manufactures would be competing more or less on even terms again, and there can be little doubt of what the result would be. The great bulk of the trade would then gravitate into British hands, for the simple reason that we can supply the common and useful articles the people want more cheaply than the French can do. The things that the French can supply better than we can, rich silks, perhaps, and other articles of luxury and fancy, are not likely to be in much demand in Western China for many a long day to come. It is for the common and useful articles alone that the

"demand will be and our superiority in producing these is not likely to be lost, so long as we adhere to the manly policy of free trade, which keeps our manufacturers always on the alert by making them face all competition." As we have shown, British goods could not be excluded, because the French line will not be and never can be the only means of ingress to Western China. On the one side we have the Bhamo route, on the other side the West River route, not to speak of the Yangtze route, and if the French refuse to carry British goods the latter will find their way to the consuming markets by one or the other of these routes according to the particular district it is desired they should reach. The West River will doubtless soon be opened to steam navigation, and in the upper reaches inaccessible to steamers arrangements should be made for conducting the trade by junks under the protection of foreign flags, as at Chungking. When that is done the West River route will be able to hold its own against the proposed French railway to Lungchow, irrespective of tariff considerations. To serve the Western portion of Yunnan a railway from Burmah is in the abstract undoubtedly desirable, but the time and manner of its construction must be determined by ordinary commercial considerations. As the *Rangoon Gazette* says:—"Admitting fully the dependence on railways of trade in land-locked tracts, granting that primitive and costly modes of transit through difficult country must always render trade there insignificant until railways are introduced, it does not follow that we are to construct a railway right into China and Siam straightway. It is a sounder policy to expend any capital available for railway extension in our own territories alone. There are many parts of India and Burmah where railways are still wanted and to neglect them to run a railway into China through a craven panic of the French getting there before us would be folly indeed." In course of time, and not a very long time, the railway system of Burmah will by a natural process of development reach the Chinese frontier and it can then be extended as circumstances require. The French may run their line into Yunnan first—and pay for it—but they will have no monopoly of the traffic. If France is accorded permission to run railways into Yunnan England will have an equal right to extend her lines across the frontier from Burmah, and she will naturally do so as soon as the trade seems to require it. At present there would be little prospect of such a line as Mr. HOLT HALLETT recommends paying its working expenses.

THE TAXATION OF SHANGHAI MADE YARN AND COTTON GOODS.

The Manchester manufacturers who have been agitating against the Indian cotton duties will now have an opportunity of turning their attention to China, if Mr. BEAUCLERK's reading of the Japanese treaty be correct. That treaty provides that "All articles manufactured by Japanese subjects in China shall in respect of inland transit and internal taxes, duties, charges, and exactions of all kinds, and also in respect of warehousing and storage facilities in the interior of China, stand upon the same footing and enjoy the same privileges and exemptions as merchandise imported by Japanese subjects into China." The Secretary of Legation refers to the treaty in his report on the trade of last year and remarks that the above clause "means

"that articles of native manufacture will, in future, be conveyed to the inland markets on payment of a transit duty of 2½ per cent. *ad valorem*, as compared with the 7½ per cent. (5 per cent. import duty plus 2½ per cent. transit duty) which Manchester and Indian goods of a similar kind are obliged to pay in order to reach the same destination." In that case not only would foreign goods have to contend with the difficulties resulting from the appreciation of gold, which so greatly favours manufacturing industry in the East, but they would also have to reckon with a hostile tariff. England would hardly be prepared to assent to the arrangement, nor can it have been what Japan intended, for it would place the mills in Japan at a decided disadvantage as compared with mills in China. The intention evidently was that, in order to protect the manufacturing industry in China from the squeeze system, the goods should be treated on the same footing as imported goods, not that they should have an advantage over the latter.

The matter will no doubt be more clearly arranged in the commercial treaty now in course of negotiation between Japan and China. In the meantime it is involved in considerable uncertainty. Not long ago a correspondent of one of our contemporaries suggested that goods manufactured at Shanghai and taken to another port, say Newchwang or Chefoo, would have to pay 7½ per cent. duty under the coast trade regulations (*i.e.* 5 per cent. export duty and 2½ per cent. half-import duty) while goods imported from abroad at the same ports would only pay 5 per cent. Native made goods would therefore be at a disadvantage in the coast trade of 2½ per cent. Mr. BEAUCLERK says nothing about the coast trade, but makes out that in the inland transit trade the home made goods will enjoy an advantage of 5 per cent. The final arrangement, we take it, will be that the goods manufactured at Shanghai or elsewhere in China will be subjected to an excise tax equivalent to the import duty charged on similar goods of foreign manufacture and that in the coast trade and inland transit trade they will be treated on exactly the same terms as the latter. China has no wish to exempt from taxation the goods turned out of foreign manufactures in China; on the contrary she would prefer to tax them out of existence; and neither Japan, England, nor any other foreign power has any interest in securing for such goods preferential treatment. All that is desired is that the country should be opened to foreign enterprise and that the goods manufactured locally should be allowed to compete on equal terms with those imported from abroad.

THE TREATMENT OF THE BRITISH OFFICIALS AT THE KOWLOON TRIAL.

The *Hongkong Telegraph* had an extraordinary article in its issue on Wednesday under the title of "Official Discourtesy." The article has reference to the recent trial at Kowloon City, and it states that the treatment accorded the official representing the Governor of Hongkong was most contemptuous. In justice to Hon. Commander W. C. H. HASTINGS, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, and to the mandarin himself, we are bound to take serious notice of the allegations set forth in the article and to show that there is not the slightest justification whatever for them. Briefly the charges are these:—That Commander HASTINGS, as the representative of the

Governor, was entitled to have the case tried by a higher official than the Colonel Commandant of the district; that no preparations were made to receive Commander HASTINGS; that the visitors had to pass through a side door; that no chair was specially set apart for Commander HASTINGS; that the whole proceedings displayed the greatest contempt for the *fan kwai*. There is no truth in any of these astounding charges, which we will consider in the order in which they have been written. In regard to the first our contemporary has altogether overlooked the fact that the mandarin in question is of the third grade; he has power direct from the Viceroy to try any case in his district; he does not hold "a petty post" but a very important one, and if the Governor himself had gone over to the trial there would have been no necessity, according to the rules of etiquette, for a man of a higher grade to have conducted the trial. It is true he is only a military official, but, although it does not directly affect the argument, it may be stated that he is the son of a very high civil official and is an exceptionally learned man, and the Chinese look upon him and treat him with the respect due to his high grade. We come now to the second charge—that of insufficient preparations. As a matter of fact every preparation was made to receive the Chief of Police. On the previous day he and the Colonial Secretary, Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, went to Kowloon City with three witnesses for the purpose of identifying the prisoner. The mandarin sent two chairs to the wharf, but they were not taken advantage of because the officials preferred to walk. Chairs would have been sent to meet the launch on the following day but for the fact that Commander HASTINGS desired to walk to the yamen. On the arrival of the party the main gates were thrown open, a guard of honour had been formed, the mandarin, after practically no delay, met the Chief of Police, and shook hands with him and the other guests, and a minute later the Court was opened. This explanation altogether disposes of the absurd idea that the guests had to pass through a side door. The main doors were opened immediately the party arrived, and shut again until the Court was opened. The most offensive charge is that no chair was specially set apart for Commander HASTINGS. We presume our contemporary will not quibble about the difference between a chair and a stool; it was not really a chair, but a stool. That, however, makes no difference to the question. There was only one chair in the yamen—all the other seats were stools—and it is not likely that the mandarin could be expected to give up his official seat. If the Prince of Wales came to Hongkong and expressed a wish to visit the Supreme Court during session, would the Chief Justice be required to set apart his seat for the royal visitor? Certainly not. Therefore as there were only stools in the yamen only stools could be sat upon. A special stool was set apart for Commander HASTINGS, and he occupied what is, according to Chinese custom, the post of honour—on the left side of the mandarin. The last charge is that the whole proceedings displayed the greatest contempt for the *fan kwai*. This statement is in direct contradiction to the facts. Inspector QUINCEY was specially deputed to accompany Commander HASTINGS with instructions to see that due respect was paid by the Chinese official to the Captain Superintendent, and that if there was the slightest breach of etiquette he was to call attention to it. Now there is absolutely no justification for saying that there

was a breach of etiquette. Everything was done in strict conformity with the recognised customs of the Chinese. When the party arrived the mandarin was fully robed; there was no undue waiting; at the conclusion of the case he rose, invited the guests into his private room, and allowed them to precede him—an honour which is always accorded persons of high rank. At the conclusion of the hospitalities he shook hands with everyone, allowed his guests to again precede him, and accompanied them to the street. Moreover he called to one of his servants "Get chairs for the whole of my guests," and this message was interpreted by Inspector Quincey to Commander HASTINGS, who returned thanks for the kind offer, which he declined because he preferred to walk. We have refuted the charges made by our contemporary on the authority of a man who is exceptionally well versed in Chinese etiquette, and it only remains to be said that Commander HASTINGS is of opinion that the Chinese official could not have been more civil and considerate.

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR ANTI-FOREIGN OUTRAGES.

The statement made by Reuter, that Lord SALISBURY has insisted on the Viceroy of Fuhkien and the other high officials responsible for the Kucheng massacre being held accountable, is almost too good to be true. It seems a waste of power, and to imply a want of dignity, for England to concern herself with the chopping off of coolies' heads and the administration of the ordinary criminal law of the country. What we have to deal with is the Chinese Government, either directly or through its high officials in the provinces. It is the duty of the Government to preserve order, and when it fails to do so England, or whatever other power may have suffered from the neglect, should say to the Government "We hold you responsible and propose to take satisfaction from you, leaving you to deal with the actual rioters as you may think best." When the high officials once understood that they were to be held personally responsible, and that the responsibility was not merely nominal but entailed very disagreeable consequences, they would be very careful to keep their people in order. The idea that they are unable to do so is quite unfounded. As Mr. PICKERING says in his letter to the *Times*, "there is no doubt that the Chinese Government, weak as it is, can and will keep order amongst its people towards foreigners, if it only be forced to do so by motives of fear or advantage to be gained." There we have the whole case in a nutshell. The Chinese Government can preserve order if it so wills, and it must be forced to do so by motives of fear, since those are the only motives that can be appealed to. The proceedings of the Kucheng trials are in themselves a proof of the power of the Government. The Vegetarians were represented as a dangerous and numerous sect beyond the power of the local authorities to control. No sooner, however, is it made clear to the authorities that the perpetrators of the Hwasang massacre, the leaders and most lawless members of the sect, must be arrested and punished, than the arrests are made without a vestige of forcible opposition on the part of the populace. The power of the Government in this instance has been completely established, and, *per contra*, its culpable neglect has been made equally apparent. The officials knew all about the Vegetarian Society and its disorderly character long ago, and it would have been

as easy for them to have taken steps to prevent any outbreak as it has been found easy for them to arrest the criminals after the outrage has occurred; but they neglected to do so, and they will continue to be guilty of similar neglect under similar circumstances to the end of the chapter unless they are taught that it is attended with danger to themselves. Lord SALISBURY's first remarks on the Kucheng massacre rather indicated that he was disposed to accept the excuses of the Peking Government, to believe that the murders had excited the horror and detestation of his Celestial Majesty, and to be satisfied with the punishment of the actual perpetrators. If his Lordship has now arrived at the conclusion that not only the actual perpetrators but also the officials who permitted the perpetration must be punished we are likely to see a considerable improvement in the position of foreigners in China. We entertain some doubt, however, as to the correctness of the telegram, as regards the Viceroy of Fuhkien. It is most probable that it is the ex-Viceroy of Szechuen that is meant. In either case the announcement is satisfactory, but if the Viceroy of Fuhkien were held accountable it would be carrying the doctrine of official responsibility for anti-foreign outrages a step further than if it is only the ex-Viceroy of Szechuen that is meant. Against the latter there is evidence of direct complicity in and incitation of the outrages, whilst against the Foochow Viceroy, so far as is known, only sins of omission can be charged; there is no evidence that he actively sympathised with the Vegetarians or suggested to them that they should attack the foreigners; he simply left them alone, not caring what they did. For that neglect, which constitutes a grave dereliction of duty, we hold that he should be severely punished, but there is some reason to doubt whether the home Government has yet advanced to that position.

THE REVIVAL OF TRADE.

The Secretary of the British Legation at Peking, in his report on the trade of China for 1894, on the authority of a mercantile informant ascribes the improvement in trade to "the inherent staunchness of the position." In other words, the prosperity which has set in after a long period of depression is real and not fictitious. All the evidence goes to show that this verdict is a correct one. The war might have been expected to interfere with trade, but it did not do so, to any extent, except at Newchwang. Everywhere else trade was prosperous, at some points exceptionally so, and the prosperity bids fair to continue. The depression which lasted from the middle of 1889 almost to the end of 1893 was attributable almost entirely to financial stringency. A good deal of the floating capital of Hongkong and the coast ports had been lost in a mania for share speculation. The effects of that, severe as the crisis was, would have been overcome in a comparatively short time by fresh accumulations had trade continued fairly good, but unfortunately the Baring crisis, followed by the failure of the Australian banks, together with the uncertainty of exchange caused by the appreciation of gold, compelled the local banks to restrict their usual accommodation, even in regard to first class business, and the wheels of commerce suffered from want of the lubricating material without which they cannot run smoothly. But money has once more become plentiful and cheap, exchange has become steadier,

confidence has been restored, and the China trade has once more entered on a period of prosperity which we trust may be long continued. The shipping trade and the import and export trades are all in a sound position and there is less cutthroat competition than there has sometimes been. Naturally there will be periods of depression in the future as there have been in the past, but at present we are enjoying a wave of prosperity and the severe lessons of the past ought to enable the community to take advantage of it and to avoid the rocks on which financial shipwreck has been made before.

Hongkong is enjoying its full share of the general prosperity, and we have good indications of the confidence entertained for the future in the rapidity with which the Praya Reclamation is being utilised for building and the activity that characterises the share market. There is a large amount of money seeking investment, much of which is going into shares. The business in this direction is the more satisfactory inasmuch as it is almost all being done on a cash basis and in the few cases in which time bargains are entered into the numbers of the shares are given. The gambling element is almost entirely absent and in its place we have sound investment. Most stocks have experienced a substantial rise in values, due partly to the amount of money seeking investment and the reduction in the bank rate of interest on advances and partly to the excellent earning powers displayed by the majority of our local public companies. Of course the advance cannot continue indefinitely, and it may perhaps be questioned whether it has not been proceeding perhaps a little too rapidly, but at all events the shares are honestly brought and paid for and are not used simply as counters in a game of beggar my neighbour. As to the future of business in general, the prospect is bright even on the present basis, but we are likely soon to see a development of foreign commercial relations in China which will greatly augment the volume of business. The conclusion of the commercial treaty between Japan and China will probably lead to a revision of the commercial clauses in the treaties between China and most of the principal powers, and in the process the privileges secured to foreign trade by the Shimonoseki treaty, substantial as they are, will in all likelihood be considerably extended.

THE CHINA PONY.

Our Tientsin correspondent states the interesting fact that Lieut. TAYLOR, R.A., of Hongkong, is now in the northern port en route for Mongolia with an Australian mare. Mr. TAYLOR hopes to arrange an experiment in breeding with some intelligent Mongol. This spirited attempt will be watched with much interest by all lovers of the China pony up and down the littoral. The uncouth little brute, known as the China pony at present embodies nearly all the demerits to which horseflesh is heir: a rascally and vicious temper, a big head, a short neck, a thick though strong shoulder, a concave and hard ridged back, skimpy loins, and huge bony hams. His unkempt shaggy coat intensifies all these to the nth degree. Yet with all his faults we love him; he is so staunch and plucky, so indefinitely improvable when treated patiently and firmly. The world all over may give an easy lead in most respects to the pampered (!) jades of Asia, but all the same we doubt if they have their peers on the globe for spirit

and for endurance on starvation commons. These are qualities which redeem him, and give him a steady place in the affection of all Eastern sportsmen.

Mr. TAYLOR's venture is not the first attempt in this direction. When the allies left Chihli in 1862 the cavalry officers, instead of sending their mares and horses to the knackers, wisely let them go for nothing to the dealers, who were easily persuaded to take them up to the plateau. For some years the Tientsin and Shanghai experts were confident that they saw the effects of these new strains. Professor FLEMING, the distinguished Army vet., was at that time in China and made an intimate acquaintance with the Mongol pony both in Chihli and Manchuria. He expressed strong doubts if cross breeding could in any way improve the animal without sacrificing its pre-eminent merit of endurance. Since that time, however, things have spontaneously improved, and the Professor's fears have not been realized. The ponies which now come down are certainly better bred, better shaped, and faster than formerly. The high prices offered for pace and sometimes for shape in Hongkong and Shanghai have no doubt contributed to this. The dealers have stimulated the breeders and artificial selection has largely superseded natural selection among the studs. The smaller men who keep four or five mares and one horse have been especially successful, though unlike the Aberdeen farmers with their bulls, they have not yet learned the advantage of a rotation of sires. For years, if not for centuries, the coarseness of the breeding has been fully explained by its absolute promiscuousness.

Racing men will probably be willing to sacrifice endurance for speed, much as carriage owners would willingly sacrifice it for "form"; but we have our doubts on other grounds if Mr. FLEMING's prognostic is justifiable. The fact that a China pony in Mongol hands borders on starvation all his life shows that his powers of endurance are occult in their origin. Our own opinion is that they are chiefly due to the wise conservatism of the breeders in keeping their colts and fillies in the market and off the stud until they are matured. The vicious prematureness of horse life which now obtains in England and in Europe is unknown to the Tartar. Two-year-old racing would seem all but criminal and certainly fatuous to them; a horse's racing days with them begins at five, six, or even seven, a time when his English relative is either adorning a four-wheeler or the barrow of the cat-meat man, if he has not been lucky enough to be relegated to the mares. If this rational tardiness is to mark any results of Mr. TAYLOR's new departure, we shall have to wait a good while to make comparisons; if, unhappily, Western example is followed the experiment will lose much of its instructiveness. *Verb. sap.!*

The existing neglect of the horse on the part of the Chinese is only one phase of that universal degeneration which has undermined the national vitality. In the millennium before Christ, under the CH'AOs, the Chinese bred horses with all the success which even in these days marks their procreation of the humble ass and his morganatic kinsman the mule. The CH'AO Emperors legislated for the horse with a zeal and a success equal to those which ALEXANDER the Great bestowed on the horses of Cappadocia. Horses were classified roughly as bloods, chargers, shire-horses, post-horses, hacks, and common beasts of burden; and mongrelism was strictly forbidden. The Imperial cavalry reached the respectable

number of forty thousand; the arts of riding and racing were assiduously cultivated, the military craft was honourable, and horse-soldiery, as among contemporary Westerns, marked its climax. During the HAN dynasty (200 B.C.—200 A.D.) the horse deteriorated with everything else; in the South the growing pressure of population and the increase of waterways probably crushed him out of existence as a coadjutor of man in the labour market. Equine matters improved under the T'ANGS (600—900 A.D.): hippo again waxed great in the North and at one time the pony population reached 800,000. Then once more, under the SUNGS, just before MARCO POLO's time, he waned, and the country went down under the hoofs of the Mongol chargers—Nemesis in the shape of the animal they had neglected. Old MARCO MILLIONE deals with his usual numerical liberality when he introduces the horse. He ascribes 100,000 troopers to an ordinary Tartar Prince going forth to war. The pony in his day not only carried his master eight or nine hundred miles in ten consecutive days, but nourished his rider by allowing his veins to be tapped for refreshing draughts of blood. KUBLAI keeps a stud of 10,000 "all pure white without a speck" and at New Year receives 100,000 ditto as presents.

Thirty steeds both fleet and wight
Stood saddled in stable day and night,
A hundred more stood free in stall,
Such was the custom of Branksome Hall,

but this was sheer poverty to the great KHAN's paddocks: his meanest post stable had 200 saddled and bridled and 200 feeding free in stall, and his postal establishment reached the enormous aggregate of 300,000. The latter day Chinaman has truly some reason to hate the big soliped, seeing his country has been three times invaded and his Government destroyed by its prowess; but for the obverse reason the gross negligence now displayed towards the horse by the Manchus is inexplicable, except on the grounds of universal dry rot. Cavalry played no part in the late war, although its potentiality on the Chinese side was infinite. If the Imperial Government could spare a few commissioners and a modest sum of money to follow the example now being set to the gallant young British officer they marchers, so, ancestors than by a antique prowess or paid a far. century of diploma went as far.

THE JAPANESE AND THE FORMOSA.

The fate of the so-called Formosan Republic will soon be put to the test. The Black Flag Chief, who has certainly shown more administrative ability than most of the Chinese Generals during the War, professes to be ready to receive the Japanese, but there can be no doubt of the result when the two forces meet, if a serious engagement ever does take place. The date of a collision cannot be far off. According to the plan laid down, unless prevented by typhoons or other similar causes, Viscount TAKESIMA, the Vice Governor-General of Formosa, as Commander-in-Chief was to leave for the South by sea about the 18th instant, and the combined attack at Anping and Tainan was to commence about the 25th instant. Owing, however, to the recent bad weather these movements have probably been somewhat delayed; but we ought to hear some decisive news from Formosa before the end of the week, including no doubt the overthrow of the Black Flags and the establish-

heads they wore in some instances a tight fitting covering of deer skin.

The women were dressed with a cloth under garment and a robe hanging down from one shoulder, wrapped about the body, and fastened at the side, with the same ear ornaments as the men, although highly decorated, and with brass rings about their wrists. A broad line, perhaps two and a half inches wide, was tattooed over the lips, and continued back to their ears.

The band consisted of thirteen men and boys and nine women, some with babies on their back.

The chief was asked if he knew that Formosa was now occupied by the Japanese, he answering that he knew so. After considerable conversation and interest shown on both sides the officials informed the savages, "Now that the Japanese have come we should become good friends, and if you will visit our cities we shall be glad to see you and we will want to visit your villages."

After distributing presents of knives, showy red hankerchiefs, red woollen cloth, etc., food was given them, which disappeared with great gusto. Before leaving, the savages were asked if some of them would not like to return with the officials to Tokoham, and twelve consented, the rest returning to the forest.

After reaching Tokoham a big dinner was prepared, to which the savages were to be the honoured guests. With a scent like a blood-hound, however, these sons of the forest forestalled their waiting hosts by tracking the food to its source, and then following the servants carrying the victuals to the banquet hall, they helped themselves most liberally *en route*, after which, with their appetites scarcely tickled, they sat down to the feast. They got through the courses with amazing rapidity and continued to repeat the dose until there was danger of swamping the Commissary department, and famine stared the garrison in the eyes.

The savages were delighted to see Tokoham burnt down and one of them, first pointing to a Chinese, let forth a shout and then pointing to the burned out walls expressed his extreme satisfaction that the town had been destroyed. And well he might; for more dastardly treacherous tricks to kill the savages have originated and been executed in that city than any other place in the north.

After the savages had destroyed several days' rations and were for the time satisfied, they were asked if they would not like to accompany the Japanese to Taipeifu. This sent them all into the most solemn conference, in which the "pros" and "cons" were discussed for some time, the chairman finally conveying the decision that they were very sorry, but as they had not left their homes with any intention to stay so long, they could not take such a long trip without some preparation.

The officers said they were also sorry and they thought that their guests would have a good time, for they would show them lots of soldiers, let them hear Japanese music, and would give them plenty to eat.

The last condition seemed to strike a pleasant chord in the hearts of the assembly, and the decision of the last conference seemed to be in danger of being overruled, as a man named "Moton-ban" and his wife, two boys and one girl, decided that the reward was worth the venture and signified their willingness to go.

Before the reception broke up they were invited to come down to Tokoham again, to which they answered that three or four hundred would gladly come, but that the Japanese would need to cut up three or four cows for the dinner. To which their hosts answered that they would be sure to have the cows, but how would the savages receive them if they should return the visit?

This was too important a question to be answered at random, so another conference was called, which threatened to continue most of the night. Finally, upon the Japanese pressing them for an answer, they very reluctantly replied, that while it would please them very much to have the Japanese visit their village, they did not know how they would be able to feed three or four hundred.

The next morning the officials, after presenting the chief with a cow, returned to Taipeifu accompanied by their newly acquired friends, and arrived here on the 8th.

Upon reaching the Government house they were taken soon after to meet the Governor.

General and there danced and sang their native songs, after which the Japanese military band of fifty members was called together and played for their special benefit. The music frightened them at first, but later seemed to please them, specially the bass drum, which they were probably comparing with their own war drums.

At the last meeting with the Governor-General he asked them to inform their people that the Japanese wished to be friendly with them, and that some of the boys of the tribe should come to Taipeifu and be educated by him. That he hoped they would have perfect confidence with the Japanese, for without it there would be constant trouble, and continuing he said, "We will not deceive you; when we make a promise we will keep it." To which the savage answered, "Yes we will be good friends; we like you to do what you promise us. The Chinese always broke their promises. We do what we say we will; if I say I will kill you, I will not break my word, I will kill you."

With this last chilly certificate of character the interview ended and the savages returned to the quarters provided them, where they good-naturedly submit to many visitors and spend their time in trying to persuade the stolid uniformed attendant that it is approaching their usual time for eating.

I leave to-morrow morning for Changwha and from there I will join the Japanese army for a few days fighting to the south, but will return in time to join the main expedition for the southern forts, which will probably leave here the last of the month.

The second Governor, Lieut. General Takashima, arrived this afternoon and will take charge of his duties at once.

Six ringleaders of a band of robbers who have not stopped at murder to secure their booty were decapitated in the city the day before yesterday.

THE POSITION AT TAINAN.

The Douglas steamer *Thales* arrived yesterday from Tainan. Everything remained quiet there up to the time she left. General Liu was not allowing people to leave, as he was of opinion that large numbers leaving would cause a panic. Seven Chinese were beheaded on the 17th inst., five for poisoning water and two for being supposed spies of the Japanese. Japanese letters were found on their persons, also maps of the Tainanfu forts. Their heads are now stuck up on bamboos on the beach. It was reported that General Liu had taken nineteen Japanese soldiers prisoners; also that the Japanese were meeting with some repulses.

THE RISING NEAR SWATOW.

GERMAN MISSION LOOTED.

The Basel Mission station at Moilim, near Swatow, has been looted, and it is feared that there will be further disturbances. The Rev. G. Reusch, who is attached to the Mission in Hongkong, has kindly furnished us with the events leading up to the rising of the natives. The principal portion of the work of the Basel mission is done in the district east of the East River, and the country around is very hilly. Signs of a rebellion were seen as long ago as last April, and the cause of it was the failure of the rice crops. A secret society, popularly known as the "Three Dots Society" or the Triad Society, and consisting of some thousands of members, made its existence manifest by creating many disturbances in various parts of the district, but the disturbances were then of a half-hearted kind, primitively organised, and were soon suppressed by soldiers who were sent from Canton and Chan Chau. There was a rice famine due to the failure of the second crop and as the prices were raised higher so the disturbances increased in seriousness. The houses of rich Chinamen who had large stores of rice were looted, but at that time none of the mission stations were attacked, and as the rioters were not prepared for any opposition they quickly became quiet on the appearance of the soldiers. One or two of the leaders and several rebels were beheaded, but the principal leader managed to escape. After the rebellion had been quelled there were rumours of an intention on the part of the

Society to resume the looting in September, and the missionaries at the various stations were informed of what was going to place place, and they were warned to leave for Hongkong and Macao. There was every justification for believing that the renewal of the disturbances would eventually result in an attack on the missions, as in them were stored large quantities of rice sufficient to ward off the famine until the following spring. About three weeks ago the missionaries in the district and their families left for Hongkong and Macao, and soon afterwards the trouble broke out afresh. There was very little rice to be had, and what there was was very expensive; the natives grew more desperate for want of food; the red flag of rebellion was hoisted near Moilim; houses were looted; native Christians fled to a place of safety among the hills; messengers carrying letters of warning to other missionaries were sent away; and the place was practically deserted. About ten days ago one of the stations at Moilim, on the bank of the upper part of the Swatow river, was looted, and rice carried away, but fortunately no one was injured. Altogether six hundred rebels attacked the mission, and it is believed that the total number is 8,000. Some days before the outrage was perpetrated a man went to the mission house at Moilim and said that the place would not be attacked if a certain sum of money were paid. Of course no money was paid; if it had been there would have been an endless procession of robbers, each demanding a large amount. The messengers conveying warning to other stations met with considerable opposition at many points and they had to pay the rebels money before being allowed to proceed.

THE OUTRAGE AT KOWLOON CITY.

THE RINGLEADER FLOGGED.

The outrage on English visitors at Kowloon City on Sunday, the 15th inst., has been followed by the prompt and, it is to be hoped, effective punishment of the ringleader, who can now be seen just outside the Customs office squatting on the ground and looking as miserable as the circumstances will allow. He is chained to the wall, a square, heavy, wooden collar is fixed round his neck, and particulars of his offence and sentence are boldly inscribed in Chinese characters on a board. Before stating what means were taken to put him in that unenviable situation it will be as well to recount the circumstances of the affray. On Sunday afternoon Captain Jackson, of the *Loosok*, Mr. MacDonald, Assistant Marine Surveyor, Mrs. MacDonald, Mr. Harper, who is passing through Hongkong on his way to England, and others, seven in all, engaged a private launch and paid a visit to Kowloon City. They went as far as the ground whereon the *Namao* pirates were decapitated some time ago, and then returned to the wharf. They then found the launch in possession of a number of gamblers, who, now that they have been deprived of following their calling in gambling houses, infest launches and make themselves exceptionally obnoxious. The party drove the gamblers off the launch, but no unnecessary force was used, and a start was made for Hongkong. After the boat had got about five yards from the landing place a number of the gamblers hurled heavy, jagged pieces of granite at the visitors, the result being that Mrs. MacDonald's eye was seriously cut and Captain Jackson's arm was hurt. Information was given to the Hongkong Police, the Mandarin at Kowloon was communicated with, and the ringleader was arrested and identified on Monday.

And so it came to pass that on Tuesday, 17th inst., Hon. Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police, Captain Jackson, Mr. MacDonald, Mr. Harper, Inspector Quincey, and a couple of Pressmen, who were afterwards said to be millionaire merchants, went to Kowloon City in order to be present at the proceedings at the yamen. The yamen is near the pawnshop—everybody knows the pawnshop—and on arrival there we were received by a guard of honour, consisting of thirty soldiers, each of whom waved a huge, gaudy banner. We passed up the line and into

the court house. "Tell the mandarin we've come," said Inspector Quincey. We waited a few seconds, wondering whether to take off our hats or keep them on. However, we took them off and just then we were asked to step into a side room. The mandarin rose to greet us, shook hands, smiled, and hoped we were well. "I shall open the Court at once," said this official, who was apparently very pleased to see us. He ordered seats, tea, and cigars for us, and then came into court after politely allowing us to proceed first. As he took his seat there was a loud yell, something like the yell you hear at a noisy political meeting. "Yee, yak, yak, hoo—ooo—! Boom, boom, boom!" The roar of cannon was heard. We had been saluted with three rounds—a great honour, for the Emperor does not receive more than three rounds.

The court much resembles a well kept slaughterhouse yard, with a recess at the back which is used as the Magistracy, or whatever the Court room is called. About ten yards in front of the mandarin's chair there is a descent of three steps, and on each side of the yard was a line of runners who kept a large crowd of interested Chinese in order. The mandarin seemed to inspire awe amongst the spectators, who, with open mouths, took a keen interest in the proceedings. The official's name is Chan Wing Fai, and he is the *Hip Tai*, or Colonel Commandant of Kowloon City. "Bring in the prisoner," he shouted in a stern manner. The prisoner was instantly brought in. He had a heavy chain fastened round his neck and when he got up to the steps he bowed to the ground and looked as humble as possible. Then the mandarin proceeded with the following examination, which is almost on the same lines as that conducted by Mark Twain's insurance agent.

What is your name?

Mok Kam.

Your age?

Twenty-eight.

What are you?

A gambler.

Where were you born?

Tung-Kun.

All Tung-Kun men in the Kwang-Tung province are a notoriously rowdy lot, and I am going to inflict a severe punishment on you than I would if you had been born somewhere else. Are your parents living?

(With a groan)—Yes.

Have you any children?

Yes. (Another groan).

Have you a wife?

Yes.

Is she living?

Yes.

Do the children look—But you know what you are charged with; are you guilty?

What's the charge?

Well, do you admit having taken a leading part in assaulting the English ladies and gentlemen on Sunday last at the wharf of this city by throwing stones and other missiles at them, whereby one lady was badly hurt on the head, and a gentleman was hurt on the arm?

I admit I was one of the crowd, but I was not taking a leading part. I did not throw any missiles at the foreigners.

But I have made inquiries and find that you are the ringleader. Now before I inflict any punishment I want you to confess the names of your confederates. Answer at once!

There was a pause; the prisoner hesitated, whereupon the Mandarin said

Now if you do not tell me their names I will have your head chopped off.

This threat brought the secret out. The prisoner gave the names of half a dozen of his companions and said some had gone to Hongkong and others to the north of China.

The confession concluded the examination, and the mandarin declared the sentence: "You will receive one hundred blows with a bamboo."

Prisoner lay down on the stone ground, and two men held down his head and two took a firm hold of his feet. His legs, just below the buttocks, were examined in order to see if there was any contraband wool hidden there. There wasn't a bit, and after his trousers had been replaced a lictor came forward swinging a flat piece of bamboo, which was very like a primitive cricket bat. And

then the laying on ceremony commenced. The lictor had certainly been bribed. His strokes were very feeble, and the mandarin became exasperated when twenty-five blows had been administered on the man's thighs. A second lictor was ordered forward, and his first cut made the receiver wince and wriggle, and shout "Oh, mandarin, have mercy on me. I am dying." He shouted this plea of mercy at every stroke.

The lictors were continually changed, and when the hundred stripes had been administered the mandarin banged his rod of office on the table and exclaimed "Repeat! This is a very aggravated assault, and it reflects discredit upon me and the people whom I have to govern. Owing to my close relationship with the Hongkong Government, and the proximity of Hongkong to Kowloon, I must make an example of you. Lictors, give the prisoner twenty-five more strokes."

Twenty-five more strokes were accordingly given, but still the mandarin was not satisfied. He was evidently displeased with the fond mother style of whipping adopted by the lictor who had been bribed. Another bang on to table. "The more I think of his case the more I am vexed. Give him twenty-five more." There were twenty-five more strokes and an additional twenty-five pleas for mercy. The prisoner was evidently getting tired of the monotony of the thing, but still the mandarin was not contented. "I am not satisfied yet; give him another twenty-five. You must get two hundred blows altogether."

This punishment concluded the mandarin turned to Commander Hastings, and said "Are you satisfied, sir?" Commander Hastings said he was. The Hongkong Government did not wish to be vindictive, but they certainly wished it to be understood that English visitors must not be assaulted at Kowloon City. The Government desired the law to be vindicated and justice administered.

The prisoner then rose, knelt down, and the chain was once more adjusted round his neck. Said the mandarin—"I must now put you in the cangue, and you will be exposed near to the place where the assault occurred, and you will be kept there during my pleasure."

Four officers then carried the prisoner away; he probably would have had some difficulty in walking. There is no doubt that the crime was deserving of the punishment. Two hundred blows with the bamboo sounds too excessive, but it was not. The man's flesh was not exposed, there was no breakage of the skin, and the bamboo had simply left several very bad bruises on his thighs.

This was the only case before the Court, and another salute of three rounds signified that the mandarin had risen. He invited the whole of the party into his private room, where tiffin, in Chinese fashion of course, was served. The conversation, which was interpreted by Inspector Quincey, who also interpreted the proceedings to Commander Hastings, was naturally relative to the assault. The mandarin expressed himself willing at all times to assist the Hongkong Government, and said that he was determined to deal severely with assaults on foreigners in his district. His one regret was that the whole of the offenders had not been arrested, and that he was out in his launch at the time of the outrage, otherwise the whole gang would doubtless have been put in gaol. He was very hospitable indeed, and after shaking hands with his guests three times, invited them to visit him again as soon as they could afford the time. He was greatly honoured with their presence, he said, and hoped that Mrs. MacDonald would soon recover. He certainly struck every one as an official who was desirous of extending every protection to foreigners visiting his district, and it can be safely predicted that the next Chinaman who interferes with an Englishman at Kowloon City will receive a much more severe punishment than even two hundred strokes with the bamboo.

The *Nanaimo* arrived at Shanghai on the 19th inst. from Nagasaki, four days out. She saw nothing of the missing vessel *Mary Stewart*, which left Nagasaki on the 1st inst. for Shanghai. It is supposed that the *Mary Stewart* has been blown south.

THE PLAGUE MEDALS.

On Friday afternoon Mr. T. Sercombe Smith, one of the hon. secretaries to the Plague Recognition Committee, received the medals to be presented to those persons resident in the colony who rendered such noble assistance during the plague of last year. There are 31 silver and 137 gold medals; the remainder went to the various stations of the Shropshire Regiment. It will doubtless be remembered that the design for the medal was opened for competition, and a prize of £15 was offered for the successful artist. The award of the Selection Committee, one of whom was Sir William Marsh, was given to Mr. F. Boucher, of London, and he has succeeded in producing a very artistic design—a design which is in the highest degree praiseworthy, and which gives a very vivid and pathetic reminder of the dreaded scourge. The figures are bold, the centre one representing a plague sufferer—a Chinaman—lying on a raised ambulance. Attending him is a hospital sister on one side, and a soldier, with a whitewash brush at his feet, at the other. He is forcing back death, who is hovering overhead—a gruesome figure. One of his long bony arms is stretched out to clutch with his broadened bony hand the patient, and in the other hand he bears a spear. On the other side of the medal are the words "Presented by the Hongkong community for services rendered during the plague of 1894," and on the rim is engraved the recipient's name. The medallist is Mr. Wyon, of London, and too much praise cannot be bestowed upon him for this very fine specimen of his work. The medal forms a distinctly suitable souvenir of the plague and a prize which each recipient will doubtless look upon with great pride. It is not yet known whether the medals will be publicly distributed, probably not, owing to the inconvenience it would necessarily cause considering that so many of the recipients are members of the police force. However, a meeting of the Recognition Committee will be held on Monday to decide upon the matter.

SUPREME COURT.

18th-September.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE).

BRUTAL ASSAULT.

Chan Chap Yau was charged with wounding, with intent to cause grievous bodily harm, a young girl and her mother, who live at Yaumati. The Attorney-General (Hon. W. Meigh Goodman) prosecuted, and the prisoner, who pleaded not guilty, was undefended.

The following gentlemen composed the jury:—Messrs. C. G. R. Brodersen, A. G. Gordon, J. P. Pascoal, A. A. Alvares, F. J. Murray, J. D. H. S. dos Remedios, J. S. Perry.

The evidence of the girl was that on the morning of the 22nd July the prisoner went to her father's house and said he wanted some books which were in an upstairs room. He went into the room with her and asked her where her father kept his money. She said she did not know, and the prisoner then picked up a chopper and dealt her a heavy blow on the cheek, causing a serious incised wound, knocking out two of her teeth. He went out of the room and saw the old woman in another room. She said that he also asked her where the money was and she said she did not know. He then cut her on the head five times with the chopper, and fractured her skull. The prisoner ran out of the house and owing to cries of "Save life" he was arrested. The girl was an in-patient of the Government Civil Hospital for four weeks, and the old woman was in a very critical condition for five weeks. At the police station the prisoner, after receiving the usual caution, made the following statement—"When I was ten years of age the girl's father took me to bathe, and he pushed me into the water and came within a little of drowning me. I went this morning to his house and stabbed his daughter for revenge. The old woman

asked me what revenge I was having, and I stabbed her as well."

The prisoner said this statement was false. About ten constables surrounded him in the cell, beat him, and compelled him to say what he did.

Acting Inspector Witchell and the interpreter denied that any force was used; the statement was made voluntarily.

A statement made by the prisoner at the police court, and which he relied upon, was then read. It was to the effect that he had been previously employed by the girl's father, and on the 22nd July he went for his wages. The father got drunk on samshu, abused him, and threatened to chop him. The father then got a chopper and hacked the old woman and then the girl, who tried to escape. It was while going to the station, prisoner said, that he was arrested.

The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty.

His Lordship (to the interpreter)—Tell the prisoner I think he went as near murder as a man could very well go. If it had not been for the skilful treatment that the old woman received at the hospital she must have died. I now have to give him a sentence which he must well feel, and which will have the effect of protecting the public from such a violent man as he is for some considerable time. He is sentenced to eight years' imprisonment with hard labour and two floggings of twenty-five strokes each with the rattan on the breech within the first six months of his sentence.

23rd September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR FIELDING CLARKE (CHIEF JUSTICE).

LI CHUNG PUI V. LI SING.

Plaintiff petitioned for a receiver of the estate of Li Laong and Li Yuen Kong in place of the defendant.

Mr. Pollock and Mr. Sharp (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Robinson, for Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Ewens), represented the defendant, Mr. Francis being indisposed. Mr. Dennys had leave to attend the proceedings on behalf of Li Lai Wo, plaintiff's brother.

Mr. Pollock said the summons was taken out by plaintiff in chambers, and the matter was adjourned to the Court. He did not know whether his Lordship had before him a notice of motion filed by the defendant asking the Court to sanction an arrangement which was alleged to have been made by the parties in settlement of the case. With regard to that he submitted that it was not competent for the Court to go into the subject now, as no notice had been given, and further—this was a technical objection—that the defendant was entirely wrong in taking out a notice of motion to sanction the alleged agreement for settlement. The agreement was repudiated altogether.

His Lordship said the other side could bring in the agreement in order that the Court might see if it was such as could be recorded.

Mr. Robinson submitted that the proper course would be to adjourn the present proceedings in order that the two matters might be disposed of together. If the Court thought fit a jury could be ordered to try the issues.

His Lordship—Does the agreement bear the name of the solicitor whose clerk is supposed to have drawn it?

Mr. Robinson—It has nothing to do with any solicitor.

His Lordship—It is drawn by a solicitor's clerk.

Mr. Robinson—The draft is by a solicitor's clerk, but there was no solicitor. It was drawn against the advice of one solicitor; it was done by the parties behind the backs of their advisers.

His Lordship—Is it not a fact that this clerk is a sort of head man or managing clerk in Mr. Ewens's office?

Mr. Robinson—Mr. Ewens has the man in his office.

His Lordship—I remember seeing the name before in connection with other proceedings in which there was a suggestion that he was entitled to a commission in the business.

Mr. Robinson—I do not know anything about that.

His Lordship—I remember it perfectly well. He has been in Mr. Ewens's employ for some time.

Mr. Robinson—I am not informed of that.

His Lordship—Against whose advice was the agreement drawn?

Mr. Robinson—Mr. Ewens.

His Lordship—And it was drawn by his clerk?

Mr. Robinson—Drawn in a technical sense of the word, yes.

His Lordship—In what sense is it not?

Mr. Robinson—He had nothing to do with the agreement. When the agreement was made between the parties he reduced it to writing.

His Lordship—That is drawing it.

Mr. Robinson—In that sense, yes.

His Lordship—In what sense is it not so?

Mr. Robinson—The man was not consulted about the making of the agreement. The parties simply said, "Write that out in English."

His Lordship—That is how a lawyer is employed sometimes.

Mr. Robinson—Generally a lawyer gives advice; he may be directly employed as a clerk to copy out documents. That was the position of Sing Tak Fan, the clerk; he had no consultative voice in the matter.

His Lordship—It appears from the affidavits that Mr. Ewens was aware of the agreement.

Mr. Robinson—He was aware of the agreement being proposed.

His Lordship—And of the agreement being drawn by his clerk?

Mr. Robinson—No.

His Lordship—You say that Mr. Ewens was not aware of the document being drawn by his clerk. That is so, is it?

Mr. Robinson—He was personally aware that his clerk drew up a document; he now knows it was this document.

His Lordship—Of course.

Mr. Robinson contended that an adjournment of the case was the proper course to adopt. The important question was, was the agreement validly made? If it was, the plaintiff had no right to bring this suit.

His Lordship—I think notice had better be given. It is exceedingly desirable that this matter should be enquired into.

Mr. Pollock—I ask your Lordship to go on with our present application for a receiver?

His Lordship—Oh, yes.

Mr. Robinson asked that the case should not go on, as if the agreement was valid the plaintiff was stopped from making the present application. Logically speaking, the agreement question came before the other, as it had to be first determined whether plaintiff had a right to make a motion for a receiver.

His Lordship said he would go on with the motion for a receiver.

The facts of the case were somewhat complicated. Li Laong died and left his property to be divided equally between five families. Li Yuen Kong, the head of one of the families, afterwards died. The defendant is the executor under both wills, and for the plaintiff, one of the survivors, it was contended that the administration of the estate had been improperly carried out, and that no accounts had been filed. Many affidavits were produced in support of the plaintiff's case, and Mr. Pollock argued at some length. For the defendant Mr. Robinson said that no case had been made out for the appointment of another receiver inasmuch as the plaintiff had received property from which he derived an income of \$14,000, and which was his proper share of the estate. All the other beneficiaries were satisfied with the administration. There was, however, disagreement as to whom this property belonged to.

After hearing the arguments on both sides his Lordship said—At present I am satisfied in my own mind that if this case is going on there will be a necessity for a receivership; but really I do not know how far it ought to extend. The matters seems to me to be very mixed up. The administration was very informal and curious, and there is certainly something in Mr. Robinson's suggestion that if there was a *bona fide* possession of the property you cannot disturb that possession by altering the receivership. I

do not feel able to make an order to-day. I must take some time to consider how far the order ought to extend, and as far as this question is concerned I must adjourn. I must say that it does seem to me that this is a case in which it would be very advantageous to everybody if a settlement were arrived at—not a settlement outside a lawyer's office, or in one lawyer's office and outside the other, but a settlement between the parties fairly and distinctly arrived at. There is a strong probability that every single one of the Chinese people interested in the matter knows perfectly well whether the money came from Li Laong's estate or not. It is a matter, when they get to issue, involving a lot of conflicting evidence, and the long enquiries and the appointment of a receiver mean needless expense. The administration by the Court will lead to a substantial diminution of the property. As far as I see at present—I have not seen very far and therefore it would be rash for me to come to any conclusion, and I do not do so at all—as far as I see at present, although I think there have been great irregularities and informalities, I am not dissatisfied—and I throw this out as a suggestion for the parties to consider—I am not satisfied that there has been any dishonesty in the administration of the estate. As far as this suggestion is worth anything I think it is as well to express it. If the parties fight all the possible questions that may arise in this Court, or before the Registrar, or any other tribunal, my opinion goes for nothing whatever. I only say that I have a number of affidavits, and although at first blush there is enough on the face of the affidavits to create a very grave suspicion of fraud, I certainly, in my own mind, am not satisfied that there has been any such fraud or misconduct on the part of the defendant. I rather venture to hope—although I do not wish to bring any pressure to bear on the parties—I hope, for the sake of preserving this property and for the sake of those benefitting by it, that they will see their way to arrive at some settlement; a settlement not in any sense snatched by one side from the other—I do not mean to say that that has been done already—but a settlement deliberately talked over, considered, and agreed upon. I venture to think that if the parties can approach the matter with the view of settling the case in that way that would be a very good way of ending the litigation. At present I will consider what order for a receiver I can make.

18th September.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. A. G. WISE (ACTING PUISNE JUDGE).

KEW V. BOTTLEWALLA.

R. Kew brought an action against E. Bottlewalla to recover \$20, a month's wages. Mr. Gedge appeared for the defendant. On the 1st August plaintiff gave defendant a month's notice, and on the 9th of the same month defendant dismissed Kew for impertinence and refused to pay him his wages. Judgment for defendant.

20th September.

THE HOONG SHING AND KONG SIN SUNG V. HOPKINS.

Hoong Shing sued Hopkins, Cumming and Co. for \$46.58 for goods sold, and Kong Sin Sung sued R. G. Hopkins for \$305.17. Mr. Holmes appeared for Hopkins, admitted the debts, and consented to judgment.—Verdict for each plaintiff with costs.

FLETCHER AND CO. V. A. JORGE.

Plaintiffs brought an action against A. Jorge, a clerk in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, to recover \$14.20. Defendant did not appear and judgment was given against him.

BHANZA SINGH V. T. M. LOPES.

Plaintiff, who is a member of the Asiatic Artillery, sought to recover \$140 from the defendant, a clerk in the Naval Yard.—Defendant admitted the debt and said he had to support nine children and was only getting \$84 a month. The money was lent by plaintiff, who charged a very exorbitant rate of interest.—Plaintiff con-

sented to accept instalments of \$30 a month, and judgment was accordingly given.

ULLMAN AND CO. V. A. JORGE.

Judgment in this case was given against the defendant, who owed \$15.75 for goods sold and delivered. He is the same man against whom judgment was given in the Fletcher and Co. case.

24th September.

CHAN YUN LUNG V. SI YIK LOONG FIRM.

The plaintiff brought two actions to recover \$1,600, money lent to defendant.

Mr. Reece appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Gedge), represented the defendants.

Mr. Reece said the defendants were drapers in Jervois Street, and the money was borrowed from the plaintiff for the purpose of paying the firm's debts.

Mr. Francis pointed out that although asked to do so the plaintiff's solicitor had not produced a promissory note or other document.

Mr. Reece—I sue for money lent, but not on a promissory note. I have a deposit receipt.

Mr. Francis—Mr. Reece was asked to produce documents.

Mr. Reece—Mr. Gedge's clerk did come to me one day and asked me if I had any promissory notes, as there are two suits, and I thought I had not. I said "No, I am not suing on a promissory note; I sue for money lent." I was not bound to tell him I had a receipt.

Mr. Francis—I hope no other solicitor will do the same in Hongkong, my lord.

His Lordship—I do not know exactly what he was asked for. What was he asked for?

Mr. Reece—I was asked for a promissory note.

Mr. Francis—I did not think that any solicitor or legal practitioner in the colony would hide his case behind such a statement as that.

Mr. Reece—There was no attempt to hide the facts.

Mr. Francis—The question was, "Have you any promissory notes, receipts, I.O.U.'s, notes of hand, or other documents?"

Mr. Reece—My reason for not producing the receipt was that I was not asked for it; I was asked only for a promissory note. My second reason is that, in my experience, if a document of this description is produced before the trial the defendant is given an opportunity of saying "That is not my chop" and producing at the trial a chop that does not agree with the chop on the document.

Evidence was given by several witnesses on both sides, and at length Mr. Francis, in answer to his Lordship, said he would consent to judgment in both cases for the plaintiff. Counsel's instructions were that a man other than the plaintiff would appear in the case.

Judgment for plaintiff.

Mr. Reece said it was now only right that Mr. Francis should withdraw his statement that he (Mr. Reece) had refused to produce the documents.

His Lordship—I did not express any opinion on the subject.

Mr. Francis—As Mr. Reece has, unfortunately for himself, alluded to the subject I must now again refer to it in the shape of a formal complaint. The first affidavit was sworn to by the managing clerk to the defendants, and it said, "I believe the plaintiff will in support of his claim produce certain books and other documents to which I am entitled to a discovery, and which I believe are in possession of the said plaintiff if the plaintiff's claim is a *bona fide* one." That affidavit was not considered sufficient, and—

Mr. Reece—No document was specified.

Mr. Francis—Another affidavit was made and it contained the sentence, "I believe the plaintiff to have in his possession a loan book, a cash book, and documents which relate to the matters in dispute in these suits and for the production of which I am entitled." I submit that an affidavit like this, drawn by a solicitor and filed in support of an application for discovery is sufficient. In fact, in omitting to take any notice of it Mr. Reece deliberately deceived the Court.

Mr. Reece—I must protest—really I must protest against this.

Mr. Francis—Mr. Reece knew he had in his hands a document in respect of which the application for a discovery had

been made, and he kept it back and concealed it. It was not a promissory note certainly; it was only a receipt or acknowledgment. The solicitor's clerk went to him and asked him to show the promissory note. He said there was no promissory note in the—

Mr. Reece—I beg your pardon. You have not set out the facts correctly.

His Lordship—I will hear you directly, Mr. Reece.

Mr. Francis—An application was made according to the practice of the Court for discovery. Knowing perfectly well that his client was in possession of this receipt connected with the suit, and which we were entitled to inspect, he ought not to have kept it back. I submit that was a thoroughly unfair and unprofessional proceeding.

His Lordship—Part of the blame must rest on my shoulders. An affidavit was put in in support of the application made in chambers, and the objection was that it was indefinite. I held that a further affidavit was wanted, and I take it that Mr. Reece has complied with that one, and that he has practically answered what I said he was to answer.

Mr. Reece—May I make a statement, my lord? In support of the application, which is regulated by the Common Law Procedure, it was necessary for the defendants to file an affidavit specifying some particular document in the plaintiff's possession, and to the production of which defendants were entitled for the purposes of discovery or otherwise. They were ordered to file another affidavit, and my duty was to negative the possession of the particular documents specified in the affidavit.

His Lordship—That is what I say.

Mr. Reece—No order was made for discovery for the particular document in the possession of the plaintiff. If discovery was to be granted it was necessary that some particular document should be specified.

His Lordship—I tell you I made an order for a further affidavit, and my answer is as I have told you. That is my opinion. It was not an order exactly; it was an interim order.

Mr. Reece referred his Lordship to the opinion of the late Master of the Rolls, who, in his book on Discovery, said that one party was not compelled to give discovery of evidence in his case, as the other side would be given an enormous advantage. Mr. Reece, continuing, said—I was not bound to show my hand. My reason for not producing this document, which I was not bound to produce, is that, from my own experience, I know that a promissory note with a chop attached, if shown to the other side, gives an opportunity to that side to go and manufacture another chop at once.

His Lordship—I think you may leave the matter here. No order was made for the production, and in my opinion you answered the affidavit.

Mr. Reece—After that expression of opinion I think Mr. Francis ought to withdraw his statements.

THE STRANDING OF THE "BELGIC."

SECOND OFFICER DROWNED.

Writing on Tuesday morning, 11th inst., the *Japan Advertiser* said that though the reports were more favourable than the previous day as far as concerns the vessel herself, it was known that the stranding of the *Belgic* had been attended by at least one fatality, the second officer, Mr. Beckman, being swept away and drowned while attempting to launch a boat in which to go ashore after the vessel stranded on Sunday evening.

The *Belgic* grounded at 8.30 p.m. A heavy sea was running at the time, the wind was blowing hard, and the current running with tremendous speed. She had passed the Mela Ledge to most dangerous point near the entrance to the gulf—in safety; but was carried on shore by wind and current at a point a little farther west, about four miles east of Sunosaki. No one felt the first touch of the vessel on the sand; but a moment after she grounded a wave swept over her, and after that she bumped a few times. This was within a stone's throw of the shore. When it was seen that the ship was hopelessly aground Captain

Walker ordered a boat to go ashore and telegraph the office at Yokohama. While this boat was being launched, Mr. Beckman, the second officer, somehow lost his balance and fell into the sea, where he was swept away by the current in a moment. No other casualties are reported.

The *Belgic's* cabin passengers were taken safely to Yokohama last Monday night on the tug *Restless*, which also took up the mails and specie that the stranded steamer carried. She also took up the pleasant tidings that the vessel was not in such a hopeless plight as the first despatches led many to believe. She is not spitted on the rocks at or near the Mela Ledge as was believed, but is reported to be lying on a sandy beach and with so far no holes in her bottom. The most strenuous efforts are being made to float her, and she will possibly be got off all right.

Mr. Howard secured the services of the N. Y. K. steamship *Hokkai Maru*, in which he and several other gentlemen set forth in quest of the *Belgic* shortly before 1 p.m. on Monday. At the same time an effort was made to charter the steamship *Amaranth* and despatch her to the stranded vessel's assistance to tow her off if possible, but Captain Clift explained that his boilers were cold and his engines being cleaned up, so that he could not possibly leave until Tuesday at daylight. This being so the *Carmarthenshire*, which had nearly finished discharging her cargo, and had steam up ready to leave on Tuesday morning, was secured. She was to have left at 3.30 p.m., but her steam windlass gear broke when it was most wanted, and it was 1 o'clock Tuesday morning before she got away. Lloyd's surveyor, Captain J. J. Efford, went down the bay on her. She probably arrived at the *Belgic* by 5 or 6 o'clock and may now be essaying to tow her off with the assistance of the *Hokkai Maru* and *Seirio Maru* which followed her an hour later, as well as whatever other craft may be in the vicinity.

The Kobe correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News*, writing on the 10th inst., says:—The stranding of this well-known O. & O. Pacific ocean liner is the chief topic of interest here at the moment, and thanks to the fact that the *Empress of Japan* called at the scene on the way down from Yokohama, I am in a position to give you some important particulars. First, the *Belgic* went ashore at 8.20 p.m. on Sunday last; second, the position of the disaster is not Susaki (at the entrance of Uraga Channel) as stated in my telegram to the *N. C. Daily News*, but 2½ miles north of Mela Ledge; third, there was loss of life unfortunately. The ship is ashore (broadside on practically just now) inside Mela Ledge, which I understand forms a protection from the south-easterly winds—now the prevailing winds. This is an important point, as it lies at the bottom of the sanguine expectations held by experienced shipmasters and others of the vessel's chances of being refloated. The precise circumstances of the accident are not yet known, but so far as I can learn the weather was not altogether favourable, although it is said Noshima Light had been safely picked up. Accounts differ as to the weather. Some reports mention foggy weather; other reports say there was neither storm nor fog. For my own part I am inclined to support the idea that the ship was set in by an exceptionally strong current (it will be remembered that the N.Y.K. steamer *Tokio Maru* went ashore at or very near the same spot). This much is certain, the captain is one of the most careful navigators in these waters and has been signally free from accidents during the many years he has been running to and fro on the Pacific Ocean. He was just completing his forty-ninth voyage across the Ocean when the disaster occurred. The ship had made an excellent run across from San Francisco. Immediately the ship struck the second officer was ordered away in one of the boats. In lowering it or in getting away from the ship's side an accident occurred which cost the second officer and the whole boat's crew (Chinese) their lives, so far as is known at present. I say this because some parties cherish the hope that some of the unfortunate men reached the shore. The boat was subsequently recovered smashed in. This deplorable accident happened on Sunday night. Up till yesterday (Monday)

afternoon nothing had been seen or heard of either the second officer or his men. Later, the third officer was despatched in one of the ship's boats, and he was more successful. He got across the gulf to Sagami in safety, there sent off a telegram to Yokohama, and then resumed his long, weary, perilous pull to the sister port in the north. On his way there, and when some distance inside Saratoga Spit (in other words, comparatively close to the lightship two and a half miles from Yokohama) the *Empress of Japan* bore down upon him and took him, his crew, and his boat on board and conveyed them all to their ship—the ill intelligence having, Captain Lee knew only too well, been received at the O. & O. office at Yokohama.

On arriving in the vicinity Captain Lee sent a letter to Captain W. H. Walker of the *Belgic*, "offering assistance and expressing his intention to remain by the stranded vessel until told that assistance was not required." After a time a signal was run up thanking the *Empress* packet and saying that her help was not necessary, or something to that effect. The *Empress* shortly afterwards came on to this port, where she arrived at 0.30, say 24½ hours from Yokohama harbour inclusive of stoppages. The passengers were still standing by the steamer yesterday afternoon and so far as could be discerned with the help of glasses, they were in temporary tents on shore. The O. & O. agent, Mr. B. C. Howard, and others have proceeded to the scene of the disaster and the steamer *Amaranth* was despatched from Yokohama yesterday to render what assistance might be found necessary. I have only to add that the good old ship appears to have gone on shore stem first at good speed, that an anchor was thrown out on the port bow and that subsequently she swung round broadside on, with her stern towards Mela Ledge. Let us hope that before these lines are in type, a telegram will have advised the successful re-floating of this valuable mail boat. The *City of Tokyo*, North China readers will doubtless remember, left her bones on the opposite shores of the same gulf.

Mr. Van Buren, Agent of the O. & O. Company, informs us that he has received the following despatch from the Company's Agent at Yokohama: "There were heavy breakers last night (16th). The *Belgic* has water in Nos. 1 and 2 holds. The cargo is still on board."

FLOGGING AT VICTORIA GAOL.

On Monday the Chinaman who was sentenced at the last Criminal Sessions to eight years' imprisonment and two floggings of twenty-five strokes each with the rattan, underwent the first portion of the corporal punishment at the gaol. His offence will be remembered as being an exceptionally serious one and he was within an ace of being tried for murder. He mercilessly hacked a woman and her daughter with a chopper, and then had the audacity to assert that it was not he but the father who had inflicted the injuries. Fortunately in Hongkong we have an Ordinance which empowers the judge to order a flogging in cases of this violent nature, and Sir Fielding Clarke never swerves from his duty when an opportunity affords for giving effect to the Ordinance. In this colony it is absolutely necessary, in order that there shall be a proper control of the hundreds of criminal Chinese, to have more stringent and powerful laws than those in England to strengthen the hands of the administrators of justice. Everyone knows what terror was struck into the minds of the "High Rip Gang" when Mr. Justice Field, at Liverpool, some years ago, ordered the flogging with the cat-o'-nine tails of many members of this murderous gang. The crime of garotting, which was before so prevalent, almost died out. And so in Hongkong the rougher element of the Chinese inhabitants must be made to know what punishment awaits them for acts of violence. The prisoner flogged yesterday will not, it is quite safe to say, ever forget the birching he received. He was bound hand and foot to the triangular "horse," and his flesh having been bared, a strong, large-limbed warder took a pliant rattan from a heap of sticks lying on the floor, set his feet firmly on the ground, took careful aim, and then brought the stick down with a heavy whack on to that

part of the culprit's anatomy which it is imperative that he should use when sitting on a chair. In a corner three yards away three prisoners were squatting who took a great personal interest in the proceedings. They had been guilty of gross misconduct in the gaol and were waiting for their just share of the rattan. The prisoner in hand howled at every stroke; he evidently felt the sting of the stick; his muscles visibly contracted and large weals came out every time it was brought down. Two warders inflicted the punishment, and at the completion of the twenty-five strokes the prisoner was released from the horse. He was almost powerless to walk and was evidently in excruciating agony. It was a deserved lesson for him, and between now and the next flogging he will be able to silently reflect on the power of the English law, and to look forward with no great relish to his second dose of whipping. The other prisoners were then whipped one by one. Two had half a dozen strokes each and the other, who had been whipped before, twelve strokes. This man's flesh was slightly lacerated, and he will probably have to lie on his stomach for the next two weeks. One of the other men took his punishment in a very matter of fact way. He neither howled nor flinched; not a muscle moved, and when all was over he put up his pants without a murmur, and walked unconcernedly away. His pachydermatous hide certainly wanted a little toning down; he might have been a log of wood for all the effect the thrashing had upon him. During the whole time the Hon. A. M. Thomson, Acting Superintendent, and Dr. Marques were present to see that the flogging was properly administered. There can be no doubt that it was, and it would not be a waste of time if the Kowloon City lictors were given a lesson in the art of flogging from the warders at the gaol.

TYPHOON EXPERIENCES.

H.M.S. "PEACOCK" IN A TYPHOON.

AN EVENTFUL VOYAGE.

The gunboat *Peacock* arrived in Hongkong on Saturday after encountering an exceptionally severe typhoon, which resulted in the vessel meeting with much damage. She left Amoy for Anping last Monday and arrived there on Wednesday morning, the voyage being rather a rough one. In the afternoon the barometer fell very low and there was every indication of a coming typhoon, so the *Peacock* left the port to escape it. At six o'clock the wind blew with considerable force, and as the centre was approaching Captain Laxton decided to hurry away to the south-west. At night the wind increased in force, the sea became rougher, the hatches were battened down, and every preparation made to contend with a heavy storm. The boat was tossed about like a log of wood, but she behaved admirably, and wave after wave dashed with terrific force over the whole vessel. Most of the water ran out again through the wash ports, but time after time it broke into the engine room, and great fears were entertained that the fires would be extinguished; indeed if the water had risen another foot this calamity would have happened. The store room was deluged; the ward room was three feet deep in water; the sailing sheets were torn into shreds; the main gaff was blown down on to the deck; the gun flap on the port side was smashed; the whaler and then the officers' private skiff were carried away; at times the quarter deck was was almost flush with water; the steam launch was swept from her hangings and fell on the funnel guy, sustaining damage to her bottom; the binnacle compass was washed down, and then to complete this list of events all the lights were extinguished. For twenty minutes it was impossible to see the compass on the bridge for want of light, and the only place where the lamps could be re-lighted was the armour room. It may well be imagined what an anxious time every man passed through, but the crew maintained a cool attitude, which is characteristic of the British seaman. The boat was in the storm for twelve hours altogether, and there were moments when there was every likelihood of the vessel succumbing to the fierce elements. When she arrived in harbour she was in a state of topsy-turvydom. It is impossible to estimate

the extent of the damage, and the men themselves had many of their personal effects completely spoiled. Rust was everywhere; hinges and locks had been wrenched away; the table in the ward room broke from its fastening and was turned upside down; in fact, there was scarcely anything on the ship that had escaped the fury of the storm. The experience was one which the officers and men will never forget, and they have good cause to be thankful that they reached Hongkong in safety. It is really extraordinary that not a single man was injured.

THE "JACOB CHRISTENSEN."

The *Jacob Christensen*, from Moji, also encountered the typhoon, and she entered Hongkong on Saturday with a strong list to port, her cargo having been shifted. For two days and three nights the captain remained on the bridge, and his experience was a particularly trying one. When abreast of Ockseu Island, early on Wednesday morning the storm came over them, and for two days the boat was in great peril. Heavy seas swept over the vessel from stem to stern, and the water rushed into the engine room, stoke hole, and other compartments. The fire of the port boiler was extinguished, the cargo was rolled over to the port side, and two boats were smashed and lost. The sea was so rough that it was impossible to see the fore-castle head from the bridge, and the steering was accomplished only with the greatest of difficulty. Fortunately no one was injured.

THE "THALES."

The Douglas steamer *Thales* arrived yesterday from Tainanfu via Amoy and Swatow. She makes the following interesting report:—

The morning of the 18th broke fair, but towards noon a fresh northerly wind sprang up and the barometer commenced to fall quickly. So at 2.20 p.m. we left in a hurry, Captain Bathurst being anxious to get into shelter in the Pescadores before the full force of the storm came on. Wind and sea increased fast towards evening and as darkness came on and we could not pick up East Island Captain Bathurst deemed it advisable to stand to the southward and heave to; this we did. Barometer continued to fall and wind and sea to increase, the ship pitching and rolling about tremendously and in doing so broke three of the after boats and bent the davits, one boat being landed on the saloon house. Lowest reading of the barometer 29.05 at 1.45 a.m. 19th. Wind blew fiercest from 1 to 3 a.m., about N.N.W. At 3 a.m. wind and rain moderated a little and hauled to N.E., veering to S.E. At daylight no land in sight. 7 a.m., made East Island, and thence to Amoy strong northerly wind with heavy confused sea. 9 p.m., anchored below Kulangsu and steamed up to Amoy on following morning. H.M.S. *Pique* and *Peacock* were to the southward of the Pescadores during the typhoon. While in Amoy Captain Bathurst was informed that the *Victoria* and *China* were caught in the typhoon between Swatow and Amoy off the Brothers and experienced very bad weather. Left Amoy on the 20th, thence to Swatow strong N.E. winds and fine weather. Left Swatow 4.20 p.m.; thence to Hongkong moderate N.E. wind and fine. Arrived at Hongkong at 7.30 a.m. on the 22nd.

REMARKABLE ACCIDENT.

20th September

A Chinese fortune teller is lying at the Government Civil Hospital suffering from a fractured skull, and his condition is very critical. The case is rather a curious one. Four days ago Sergeant Scott, of Yaumati, was taking exercise by throwing a heavy stone on some turf near the roadway. He was preparing for a throw when he slipped and the stone came in violent contact with the head of the fortune teller. The injured man was dazed for a short time, but he did not complain of serious ill effects until two days later, when he had a severe pain in the head. He was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, where it was found that his skull was fractured, and it is questionable whether he will live. It is certainly very extraordinary that the man should have been able to walk about for two days with a fractured skull.

24th September.

The man who was accidentally injured by a stone which Sergeant Scott was throwing for practice at Yaumati on the 6th inst. died in the Government Civil Hospital. The inquest was held on Monday by Hon. H. E. Wodehouse, who returned a verdict of death from misadventure.

CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-ninth ordinary meeting, to be held on Saturday, 28th September, at noon.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the accompanying statement of accounts for the year ended 30th April last.

Sterling receipts and payments have hitherto been adjusted, for statistical purposes, at a uniform rate of exchange of 4s. per dollar; the present year they have been taken at current rate, and this system will be continued in the future.

The net premia amount to \$1,095,865.41 and the working account shows a balance at credit of \$530,727.79, which sum the directors recommend to be appropriated in the following manner:—

A dividend of 20 per cent. to shareholders	\$120,000.00
A dividend of 15 per cent. on contributions, payable to all contributors of business whether shareholders or not	\$120,000.00
To be carried to new account	\$290,727.79
	\$530,727.79

RESERVE FUND.

It is proposed to increase this fund to \$900,000 by the transfer of \$100,000 from exchange fluctuation account, this sum being the profit realized during the year by the sale of a portion of the Company's sterling holdings.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. M. D. Ezekiel was invited to fill the vacancy occasioned by the departure from the colony of Mr. J. S. Moses, and his appointment requires the confirmation of shareholders.

Messrs. P. Sachse and M. D. Ezekiel retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The annexed accounts have been audited by Messrs. H. U. Jeffries and F. Henderson, the last-named gentleman acting in the absence of Mr. T. Arnold. Messrs. Jeffries and Arnold offer themselves for re-election.

J. THURBURN, Chairman.

Hongkong, 18th September, 1895.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH APRIL, 1895.

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Cash in hand	94,995.63		
Fixed deposits with Banks	435,000.00		
Invested in mortgages of properties	792,946.00		
Bonds of Chinese Imperial Government loan, 1886	55,665.14		
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, debentures	150,000.00		
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Limited, debentures	5,545.93		
Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co. debentures	41,594.45		
London branch:—			
Cash in hand	\$110,807.23		
India 3½ per cent. stock	182,788.80		
Indian railways (guaranteed stock)	85,808.00		
Natal 3½ per cent. loan	18,840.00		
Remittances in transit	34,485.85		
	432,729.88		
Australasian branches:—			
Cash in hand, in course of collection, and on fixed deposit	250,496.16		
Yokohama branch:—			
Cash in hand and on fixed deposit	17,940.69		
Interest accrued, but not yet payable	19,215.80		
Sundry debtors	38,270.61		
	\$2,334,394.29		

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital subscribed	\$2,000,000		
Amount paid-up	600,000.00		
Reserve fund	800,000.00		
Dividends outstanding	5,759.40		
Exchange fluctuation account	344,283.41		
Sundry creditors	53,623.69		
Profit and loss account	530,727.79		
	\$2,334,394.29		

WORKING ACCOUNT.

To losses	739,151.76
To charges, survey fees, &c.	212,923.83
To directors' and auditors' fees—Head office and branches	18,143.11
To balance to profit and loss account	530,727.79
	\$1,500,946.49
By premia, less re-insurances, return	\$ c.
premia and commissions	1,095,865.41
By interest	109,518.29
By transfer fees	162.00
By exchange	6,253.59
By amount brought forward from last year	289,147.20
	\$1,500,946.49

RESERVE FUND.

To balance on 31st July, 1895	\$ c.
	800,000.00
	\$800,000.00
By balance on 31st July, 1894	\$750,000.00
By amount transferred from profit and loss account, 1893-1894	50,000.00
	\$800,000.00

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

The annual general meeting of this Company was held on Saturday at the registered offices, Praya Central. Mr. J. H. Lewis presided, and there were also present Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving, Messrs. R. Shewan, D. R. Sassoon, A. Ross, (Consulting Committee), W. Parfitt (Secretary), V. H. Deacon, D. E. Brown, G. Stewart, W. Parlance, J. H. Cox, T. I. Rose, L. Mendel, S. S. Benjamin, H. R. Burder, W. H. Gaskell, J. C. Peter, Captain Hall, G. C. Anderson, A. G. Morris, C. A. Tomes, H. Crawford, E. Jones Hughes, J. H. Garrels, and Ho Fuk.

The SECRETARY read the notice of meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and with your permission we will take them as read. I think you will agree that the result of the year's working has been extremely satisfactory, but you must bear in mind, gentlemen, that the circumstances have been most exceptional, and we can scarcely hope to have a continuance of such prosperity. With regard to the appropriation of the profits of the year under review, the articles of association have been strictly complied with, and it is impossible to gratify those shareholders who wish for a more substantial return. The financial position of the Company can only be regarded as a sound one, but I must remind you that, of the funds in hand, about \$250,000 will be required to meet the cost of the new steamer, now being built to replace the *Fokien*, and provision will also have to be made for a new wharf. It is also only reasonable to suppose that there will in time be a material development of trade with Formosa and China ports generally, and we may have to add to our fleet to meet the increased demand and to maintain our position. I believe there is some dissatisfaction amongst shareholders with reference to the investment of the Company's money, which, as you know, is at present on deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. This point has been fully considered by the General Managers and Consulting Committee, and it has been decided that in the present circumstances it is an advantage to have the money readily available. I do not think I can add anything of much importance, gentlemen, but before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to hear any questions from shareholders.

Mr. MENDEL—I have listened with great pleasure to what our Chairman has said, and as far as I can see the Company is in a highly satisfactory state. It was my intention to ask several questions at this meeting, but in courtesy I went to the General Managers yesterday and told them what I was going to ask, and I got a reply which I think was not quite satisfactory, anyhow not to my mind. The questions which I intended to put were, first, what were the gross earnings of the Company's steamers last year? and the second, what was the amount

of the commissions earned by the General Managers during that period? The first question I am not going to force.

The CHAIRMAN—You had better put the questions and I can answer them; that will be more satisfactory.

Mr. MENDEL—Then what were the gross earnings of the Company's steamers during the past year?

The CHAIRMAN—This is a question which was raised four or five years ago, and the answer was then given that local shipping companies are not in the habit of publishing their gross earnings, for the simple reason that it would be giving information to competitors and inviting fresh competition; and to give information which others do not offer us would be prejudicial to the interests of the Company. This reply was accepted then as satisfactory, and I trust that it will be equally satisfactory now.

Mr. MENDEL—I am not going to force that question, and this answer might to a certain extent be satisfactory; but I certainly should like to know the amount of the commission earnings taken by the General Managers.

The CHAIRMAN—The articles of association provide that the General Managers shall have a certain commission, and we have followed the articles strictly. I believe there is some misapprehension in this matter. We simply earn five per cent. on the gross earnings for freight in Hongkong; the coast agents get the coast commissions, with which we have nothing to do. To go further into details or state the figures at this meeting would, I think, be only publishing information for the benefit of competitors, and would be detrimental to the interests of the Company.

Mr. MENDEL—This answer is to my idea certainly not satisfactory as far as the public is concerned, and the public has the idea that fabulous sums have been made by the General Managers. In fact, I hear—I do not know if it is true—that the commissions amounted to \$60,000, while the shareholders only get 12 per cent., or \$120,000, deduct from this \$30,000 for interest and similar items and \$10,000 profit on sale of the *Fokien*, \$40,000 altogether out of that sum, leaving the earnings of the steamers for shareholders to get only \$80,000. The General Managers, if they get \$60,000, and \$10,000 for office expenses besides—if it is correct that their commissions amounted to \$60,000—they get nearly as much as the shareholders, and you would travel all over the earth before finding any other Company like that. If that is true it is a most abominable thing.

The CHAIRMAN—I must—

Mr. MENDEL—Allow me to finish.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg your pardon; I thought you had finished.

Mr. MENDEL—No, I have not finished.

The CHAIRMAN—I beg your pardon, then.

Mr. MENDEL—I see Mr. Shewan and other shipping men on the Consulting Committee here, and I hope they will be re-elected by us, but I think they do not know what has been going on. But so far as the old directors are concerned, I do not know whether they are aware how much commission the General Managers are making. Of course the General Managers know, but I should like to know whether the others are aware of it. This answer to my question is not sufficient, and I appeal to the meeting to say whether we are entitled to the information or not.

The CHAIRMAN—I am very pleased to hear what you have to say. It is open to shareholders at any time to have an inspection of the books, but none has been asked for. The books will show that everything has been done in accordance with the articles of association; the accounts have been audited by the Company's auditors and certified correct. I do not think it necessary to publish the information you ask for, because as I said before it would be giving away information to outsiders.

Mr. MENDEL—This answer to my idea is not satisfactory. I know by the articles of association we cannot do anything in the matter, but the sooner the shareholders come together and have a special meeting and alter the articles the better for them.

The CHAIRMAN—Of course—

Mr. MENDEL—Allow me to finish. As soon as I have finished you can answer, but I have a right to speak now. I do

not know what the intentions of the Directors are, whether they consent to the General Managers having such high commissions, but if they do consent, well and good; but the shareholders have something to say, and I say if we cannot do anything at this meeting let us call a special meeting and know the exact position. If it is correct that the General Managers have got \$60,000 commissions and \$10,000 office expenses, making \$70,000 altogether, it is to my idea something abominable and obnoxious, and I appeal to the shareholders to support me.

Mr. D. E. BROWN—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I think the majority of shareholders will side with the General Manager in his claim that it is unwise and would be detrimental to the Company's interests to give possible competitors this information as to the revenue-earning powers of the Company. I think they should be satisfied with the handsome dividend they have got, and not weaken the hands of the General Manager. It is possibly within their province, and they may consider it advisable, if asked, to give some details as to the cost of running the Company's business during the past twelve months; but I think it is certainly inadvisable to publish the information for which Mr. Mendel asks. I myself am not in favour of giving it. Now that I am on my feet, there is one little item I was going to mention—I notice it has been mentioned by the General Manager—that is, the amount required towards the reconstruction of the Company's wharf here. May I ask the General Manager what amount of money it is supposed will be required for that, and also may I ask whether the Government has paid the Company the \$14,000 which I see mentioned in last year's report as being due in February? If it has been paid, I suppose it is among the money shown as cash in hand. I merely notice the absence of the item in this year's report, that is all. And while I am on my feet I think I may as well—I can with a great deal of pleasure—move a resolution that the accounts as read be passed, and I also move at the same time a motion congratulating the General Managers on the successful result of the year's work.

Mr. A. G. MORRIS—Before you put the motion, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask about this new steamer in place of the *Fokien*—what is to be the carrying capacity, deadweight capacity that is, of the new boat?

The CHAIRMAN—She has been built for a special trade, requiring light draught, and the plans are on the extreme dimensions possible for her requirements. She carries 700 tons deadweight, including bunkers.

Mr. MORRIS—That is 12,000 piculs? Then you say in the report here, with reference to the *Fokien*, "she is too small for our present requirements." She carried 8,000 piculs net.

The CHAIRMAN—But on what draught?

Mr. MORRIS—I know nothing about the difference in draught; that is not my point. I understand 8,000 piculs was too small, and the one you are now building is only 12,000 piculs, including bunkers. Can you tell us what the bunkers will be?

The CHAIRMAN—Bunkers, 100 tons.

Mr. MORRIS—Very well, then; the new ship has a net deadweight capacity of a little over 10,000 piculs left, say. Well, I believe that for a steamer of only 10,000 piculs, to pay £25,000 means a most excessive sum to pay, and I should very much like to know if the Consulting Committee consented to pay such an enormous sum for it. You may say what you like about light draught, but I know light draught boats nearly three times this size that have been built for the Tientsin river at very much the same cost as this. I should like to know if the Consulting Committee gave their consent before this was done.

The CHAIRMAN—The Consulting Committee confirmed the contract for the steamer. Tenders were invited from home for a ship to be built according to the plans—I am sorry I have not the plans here to show you just now; they have been sent away—but tenders were received from a large number of builders, and this was chosen for acceptance as being the most satisfactory. It was not exactly the lowest, but it was accompanied by certain guarantees, which many of the builders would not give, as to the ship fulfilling our requirements.

Mr. MORRIS—I should have liked to see the plans.

The CHAIRMAN—Yes, I am very sorry they are not here just now. They would not have afforded much information to the general body of shareholders, but I know you would understand them perfectly. We had to build a new steamer at once, in case of emergency, and we had for our guidance the opinions of all the captains who had been on that run, and we had to do the best we could.

Mr. MORRIS—Yes, but what I mean is that I could get steamers three times that size on the same draught as this for almost the same money.

The CHAIRMAN—But there is the length of the ship to consider.

Mr. MORRIS—Well, I have asked a question—whether the Consulting Committee consented to this. The question has not been answered entirely to my satisfaction.

The CHAIRMAN—It has not been usual, unless time has permitted—and in this instance time did not permit—to refer matters of working detail to them in advance.

Mr. MORRIS—Then you did not communicate with them by wire?

The CHAIRMAN—We informed them by wire what arrangements we made, and they approved. I was considering the interests of—

Mr. MORRIS—Yes, I know, but the articles of association say that you must consult the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—If we have not consulted them enough, it is for the Consulting Committee to raise objection rather than shareholders. The whole thing has been approved and confirmed by the Committee, and I trust that when the steamer arrives they will find it satisfactory.

Mr. MORRIS—And I hope the shareholders also will be satisfied. The Consulting Committee represent the shareholders, and it is to the Consulting Committee that the shareholders look for the protection of their interests.

The CHAIRMAN—Not to the General Managers as well?

Mr. MORRIS—Yes, to the General Managers as well, but first of all to the Consulting Committee.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, I shall be very glad to show you the plans when I have them, or give you any information you like, but meantime I must beg to remind you that the question before the meeting is the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. MORRIS—Yes, but that comes in under your report, and I have a perfect right to ask about it before passing the accounts, and I do not think it is necessary to get annoyed about it. (The CHAIRMAN—Quite the reverse.) When I can see your plans for this steamer, I shall show you plans of other steamers two or three times its size and same draught, all for the same money.

The CHAIRMAN—But she has to meet the requirements of a special trade.

Mr. MORRIS—So are the Tientsin steamers for a special trade.

The CHAIRMAN—But not the same length. Well, are there any more questions, gentlemen? If not, I will proceed with the resolution.

Mr. MENDEL—I object to the motion being put yet. I agree with what Mr. Morris says. I do not think the answers sufficient, and I do not agree with Mr. Brown about not giving information, and I am very sorry that we cannot get to know the amount of the General Managers' commission to-day, and I think that if we cannot get it to-day we must have a special meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—Well, gentlemen, it is quite outside the scope of an ordinary general meeting, and so I cannot give it now; but I am quite prepared to give the information in private, if you will nominate a committee of shareholders or appoint any number from among yourselves that may be approved by the Consulting Committee. But I think it would be detrimental to your interests to give it now, or in any way to let it become public for the use of our competitors. If you are still not satisfied with my decision, you can decline to pass the report and accounts.

Mr. MORRIS—We are also entitled to underwrite \$25,000 for each steamer, according to the articles of association. I propose that you should do so, and in place of carrying \$150,000

to reserve fund I should say only \$100,000 to reserve fund and \$50,000 to insurance fund.

The CHAIRMAN—The articles of association will not admit that.

Mr. MORRIS—Then I beg to propose that we underwrite \$25,000 per steamer, as provided in the articles.

The CHAIRMAN—That, I think, is a question which may be naturally left to the General Managers and Consulting Committee. We did once increase the fund to \$50,000, when we lost two steamers and there was rather a scare; but why should we increase it now? I think it is merely a detail of management which perhaps you would better leave to the General Managers and Consulting Committee; but of course, if the majority of shareholders are in favour of increasing the risks we underwrite ourselves, we can try it.

Mr. MORRIS—My motion is not seconded and I do not press it. If some of the shareholders support me you will have to put it to the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—There being no more questions I beg to move that the report and accounts as put before you be adopted.

Mr. BROWN—I beg your pardon, I have already made that proposition, coupled with a motion of congratulation to the General Managers. However, I have much pleasure now in seconding your motion.

The motion was put to the meeting, and only Mr. Mendel and Mr. Morris voted against it.

Carried.

Mr. J. C. PETER moved the re-election of Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, D. R. Sassoon, A. Ross, and R. Shewan to be members of the Consulting Committee.

Mr. H. CRAWFORD seconded.

Carried.

Mr. BURDER moved the re-election of Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. H. Gaskell as auditors.

Mr. C. S. Sharp seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting, gentlemen. I thank you very much for your attendance, and I have only to add that the dividend warrants will be issued on Monday.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises the receipt of the following report for August from Mr. Blamey, the manager at the mines:—

August Shaft, 210ft. level.—The north drive on the course of Gillies' reef has been driven a further distance of 9 feet, making it 76 feet from the main east crosscut, and work there has been discontinued for the present for reasons which will appear in a later part of this report.

Work in the No. 1 crosscut was resumed a few days ago, and I am pleased to say the face is now in a strong body of ore showing a little free gold by washing. So far it is poor, however, but I am looking for an early improvement. Of course, I need not tell you that this is our deepest level or that the finding of payable ore here would put a very different complexion on the value of our prospects throughout the mine. We are stopping on the course of the north and south reefs, where we have a large body of low grade ore.

In order to begin this work, we had to remove the air pipes put in to ventilate the workings on Gillies' reef, and as the reef is large and has to be blasted out, we shall not be able to replace these for some little time yet.

The crosscut started to go out to the new shaft has reached its destination and is now ready for the shaft when it reaches this depth.

Intermediate, 140 feet level.—This point continues to give the bulk of the ore we are milling and within the last few days has shown signs of improvement. I now think the main chute of ore is standing to the east of our former workings, and am confirmed in this by the fact that in two small crosscuts put out in that direction we are getting very fair grade ore.

Sinking the new shaft below this level was commenced early in the month and nine feet has been sunk and timbered. I expect to see the connection with the 200 feet level made early in the coming month.

110 feet Level.—The only work doing here just now is the driving of two small levels for the better working of the deeper ground.

New Leader.—The various drives, stopes, and winzes on this leader continue to give us some fair grade ore and should do so for another month at least.

We have now connected with the 110 ft. level and thus proved that it is the continuance of Phillips' leader worked some time ago at and above this level.

The little drainage tunnel near the surface is now in sixty feet, and should be completed within the next fortnight.

Gillies' Reef, Mill Gully tunnel.—Very little work is being done at this point, as most of the ore has been taken out to "water level." We shall now attack this by means of a crosscut from the 110 feet level. August shaft.

Total drive for the month.....616 feet
Ore mined.....858½ tons
made up as follows:—

	tons.	cwt.
August Shaft	690	0
Mill Gully	123	10
New Leader	45	0

Milling.—This was carried on thirty-one days, being equivalent to twenty-one days with the full battery, crushing 800 tons of ore from the mine for a yield of 405 oz. 12 dwts. of smelted gold. The re-erection of the old twelve head of stamps was sufficiently advanced by the evening of the 23rd inst. to allow of crushing being started with them and they have since been running full time.

The carpenters are now engaged in putting in new timbers to support the stone breaker, and repairing the mill building generally. They are also laying down new blanket tables throughout the mill.

General.—The usual attention is being given to all work coming under this head, and large additions have been made to our stock of firewood.

Labour.—This is more plentiful than I have ever known it.

Health.—This is fairly good.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 6½ inches.

RAUB.

The following is the Mining Manager's report for the four weeks ending the 5th September, 1895:—

Raub Hole, No. 2 Shaft.—The sinking of this shaft is proceeding slowly, owing to the want of proper pumps to overcome the water difficulty. Part of the new pump has been here for the past month, but until we get the remainder of it it is of no use to us. The shaft is now sunk to a depth of 96 ft. below the 120 ft. level, or 216 ft. from the surface. We have 4 ft. yet to sink before opening out. This I hope to have finished early in the ensuing week, when the work of cutting the plat will be started. I shall watch with interest the cutting of the lode at this depth, as it is 100 ft. deeper than anything yet seen at Raub. The sinking of this shaft has been greatly delayed for want of a proper pump below the 120 ft. level.

The only work being carried on in the stopes is on the ore chute south of the shaft. The ore chute north of the shaft is now worked out, but there are still a number of small cross leaders to work, which I intend to work later. In the south stopes there are three faces at work raising fair grade ore.

Bukit Koman.—There is no change to report from here, and the lode in the main workings still continues to show as large as ever. The lode has settled down on the timber from a soapy head about 15 to 20 ft. high, and for a length of about 350 feet, and has brought down from 1,000 to 1,500 tons of quartz. This has done no damage, but will effect a great saving in labour and dynamite, which will compensate for the heavy timber required to secure the ground. The work of extending the stopes is still being continued with the same favourable result, the lode showing no diminution either in size or prospects. A contract has been let to sink the No. 2 North air shaft from 70 feet (its present depth) to 120 feet.

Main Engine Shaft.—This is now sunk and timbered to a depth of 78 feet below the 146 feet level. The ground still continues hard blasting, black slate intersected with the numerous small quartz leaders. The width is about the same. New quarters for the European staff have been provided for this section. All the framing for a hopper to hold 100 tons of quartz for filling railway trucks is up and ready for planking.

The bulk of the ore required to supply the mill is coming from this section, fifteen bullock carts being constantly employed at this work. These I hope to do away with about the end of the present month, as I hope to have the railway at work as far as here by then, if the rails come forward to enable us to get them laid in time.

Western Lode.—Stoping between the North and South air shafts is being continued as usual. Good gold can be seen in breaking the stone, but the lode is more broken and the crushing stuff not so wide. The drive going south from the No. 1 South air shaft is in 68 feet. There is still 5 ft. of quartz in the face of the drive, which shows a little gold, but is not payable. I have started to stope north on a small body of quartz running parallel and about 40 ft. west of the main stopes, in which a little gold can be got. This section and Bukit Koman continue to supply the bulk of the crushing stuff to the mill.

Battery.—This has been kept steadily at work full time during the month (four weeks), during which time the battery has worked 605 hours, crushing 870 tons, which from a rough clean up on Monday last, 2nd inst., gave a yield of 1,030 ounces of amalgam. Crushing was resumed again on the same afternoon.

Railway.—Work on this during the past fortnight has been almost at a standstill for want of railway material. A few coolies have been kept at work trimming banks and cutting water-drains. There are now about thirty coolies at work ballasting and laying rails as they arrive. Had it not been for the delay in getting forward the material from Pekan the whole job would have been finished and in running order by the end of this month.

As soon as the line is finished to Bukit Malacca and Jalis, it is my intention to open two fresh mines at these places by sinking two main engine shafts.

WM. BIBBY,
Mining Manager.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

The following is the report of the Hongkong Cricket Club for the season 1894-1895.

To the Members of the Hongkong Cricket Club.

Gentlemen,—The Committee have the pleasure of presenting their annual report on the season 1894-1895.

The accounts, which are attached, show a balance of \$2,468.68 to the credit of the Club on the 31st August, 1895.

The usual list of members, together with the batting and bowling average of the season, is annexed. It will be seen that the batting average list is headed by Mr. E. W. Maitland with 42.22, whilst Mr. J. G. Watson was most successful with the ball, taking 27 wickets at a cost of 11.07 per wicket.

Only one score of over 100 was made viz., J. A. Lowson, 134.

The Committee have to regret the loss (through absence from the colony) of a valued member of the Club in the person of Mr. A. J. Leach, who has accepted a Puisne Judgeship at Singapore. Mr. Leach was an old and enthusiastic member of the Club, and has been for the past five years its much respected President. His presence in the field will be much missed.

A cordial invitation has been received from the Singapore Cricket Club inviting an Eleven of the Hongkong Cricket Club to visit Singapore and take part in a cricket fortnight which is to be held there during the Christmas holidays. The Committee hope that it may be found possible for the Club to avail itself of this invitation, but have only felt able in the first instance to return a qualified acceptance of it.

The Club played 14 matches, of which 12 were won, and 2 lost.

The Pavilion is in fairly good repair and the ground is in capital order. The pitch has been partially relaid and it is believed that the wickets in the coming season will be at least up to the standard of past years.

There are 347 members, of whom 44 are absent from the colony, and 33 naval subscribers. During the year there have been 80 new members, and 21 new naval subscribers.

The Lawn Tennis Championship Cup was won by Mr. C. M. Firth, who defeated Mr. C. C. Platt in the final tie; the Single Tennis Handicaps "A and B" classes fell to Mr. C. M. Firth and Mr. R. B. Garde, R.N., respectively; and the "Doubles" to Messrs. E. J. Grist and K. W. Mounsey; whilst Messrs. C. M. Firth and F. Maitland carried off the Professional pairs.

A proposition having been advanced by the Committee of the Racquet Court Club that the Hongkong Cricket Club should acquire the Racquet Courts and all the interests of the Racquet Court Club therein, the Committee of the Cricket Club went very fully into the question of the advisability of this transfer, and eventually submitted a scheme for their acquisition, which obtained the sanction and approval of an extraordinary general meeting of members of the Club, held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday, 4th March, 1895. The transfer has accordingly been made, the premises have been put in to a state of good repair, and regulations have been passed for their use. Both courts are now open.

The thanks of the Club are due to the Officers Commanding and the Officers of the 1st S. L. Infantry, of the Rifle Brigade, and of the Hongkong Regiment, as well as to Admirals Buller and Sir E. Freemantle, Captains McQuhae and Halifax and the Officers of the flagship and of H.M.S. *Undaunted* for their kindness in allowing their hands to play on the ground during the matches.

The annual meeting for the purpose of receiving the Committee's report for the past season and electing the Committee for the coming season will be held in the Pavilion on Friday, 27th September, at 4.45 p.m.

A. J. LEACH, President (absent).

A. COXON,

S. L. DARBY,

Captain ECCLES, R.B.

Dr. J. A. LOWSON,

F. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer.

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,

A. K. TRAVERS,

EDWARD A. RAM, Hon. Secretary.

Members
of the
Committee.

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

The annual meeting held on Thursday afternoon was well attended by the members. The Chairman, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, alluded to the satisfactory nature of the past season: never had there been so many matches, never had the Club been more successful. The Rugby matches with the Navy left little to be desired, although on occasions the Club had to contend against adverse circumstances. A football competition had been inaugurated for the present season, all difficulty in connection with the regulations had been surmounted, and there was every prospect of football being improved; of more interest being taken, and of more players participating in the game. The adoption was seconded by Mr. P. G. Davies, R.A., and carried unanimously. The election of officers for the coming season was then proceeded with. The President, after drawing attention to the energetic and efficient services of Mr. E. F. Mackay, said that the latter no longer wished to undertake the duties of captain of the Association team. Mr. C. M. Firth was thereupon unanimously elected to fill that post. The captain of the Rugby team, Mr. G. H. Potts, the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. C. Cameron, the Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. Browne, were re-elected. A ballot was then taken for five members of Committee, after which Mr. G. H. Potts said that they would all be glad for the present President, Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, to continue as their head, and that it was their hope that he would remain as such for many years; he had done much to improve and advance

attained to that position. He has endeavoured to reduce to nonentities all the foreign Ministers, and that, since the time of Sir Harry Parkes, he succeeded in doing so with British Ministers admits of very little doubt. That his influence has seriously interfered with British interests I do not at present say, as that is not the question immediately before us; but that his present position ought to debar the British Government from seeking his advice either direct from Peking or through his London agents seems self evident. That as British Minister he would have been (perhaps in view of possible eventualities I may add, or would be) acceptable to the Chinese Government is extremely unlikely, and that, as having been their former servant, they would not accord him the deference which a British Minister ought to demand may be taken for granted.

But there is a still more dangerous source to which the Foreign Office seems to look for information, and it would almost appear as if they looked to it for advice and guidance also; that is, the Chinese Legation in London. Lord Salisbury on the important occasion of his reply to the address on the speech from the throne, said, "I am bound to say that that feeling, so far as we know, is fully shared by the Chinese Government itself. The Emperor of China caused his Minister at this Court to convey to me the extreme horror and indignation with which he had heard the news and his resolution to bring to speedy and condign justice those who are guilty of these atrocious crimes." This needs no comment here. We who are on the spot can only lament the little wisdom with which the Foreign Office appears to be governed in conducting our relations with China. Even knowledge of his own special province does not seem to come to the aid of our Foreign Minister. As a resident in China before Sir Thomas Wade (or was Sir Robert Hart the real instigator?) induced the Chinese Government to send ambassadors to Europe, and being perforce a student of our political and commercial relations with China, I have always held that the appointment of these ambassadors was far the greatest blow which British and indeed all foreign interests in China has ever suffered. I emphasised that school forms would be transferred from Peking to London, that is, from men who had some opportunity of judging for themselves and of learning residents' opinions of Chinese character to men who had none, to those who would judge a Chinese ambassador to be a man like unto themselves, and who, even being trained diplomatists, would have no conception of the chicanery of the Chinamen or of their Chinese-trained foreign advisers. Was I right? I hold the same opinion more strongly now.—Yours faithfully,

Hongkong, 18th September, 1895.

THE SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

Peking, 18th September.

The Emperor gave consent a short time ago to a joint proposition of the Viceroy Chang of Nanking and Governor Chao of Soochow to connect the latter city with Shanghai by a railway. When this is completed the line is to be extended northwards through Wusieh on to Chinkiang, and from thence westwards a branch line will be laid to Nanking. All these cities are in Kiangsu province. A secret decree has been sent to the two high officials to commence work as soon as practicable.

This is apparently to forestall an anticipated demand of the Japanese to be allowed to build a railway between Shanghai and Soochow and Hangchow as soon as these two ports shall have been formally opened as treaty ports. It is also averred that the Emperor has given his consent to a scheme strongly recommended by the Viceroy Chang, with the cognisance of Governor Chao, for the establishment by a Chinese syndicate of a river steamboat service between Shanghai, Soochow, and way towns. This new steamboat company will also undertake to carry the mails. The Kiangsu Government will be given the power to inaugurate the postal administration on European lines, and to simplify matters as well as to avoid friction the numerous private postal agencies

will be given the opportunity of acting as Government agencies at the various towns. There is every reason to believe that the first two schemes named above will be inaugurated very shortly, the various head officers of the movement having been already fixed upon by the provincial Government in question.—N. C. Daily News telegram.

STONING A BRITISH CONSUL.

Our Wenchow correspondent writing on the 10th inst. relates the following incident:—Our Consul had a lively half-hour the other day, in passing through the hsien city of Iue-an. He was returning from a visit to Ping-yang, and like all other foreign travellers going to or coming from that city had to pass through a portion of Iue-an. He had heard that foreigners were generally stoned, etc., when passing through that place, and so had taken the precaution to have a guard of yamen runners. All passed off well during his short passage through the city, and he was congratulating himself on his peaceful progress as he entered his boat. He soon learned the temper of the people, however, for no sooner had he got into his boat than a shower of missiles came from the people on the banks of the canal, and the usual vile yells rang from their throats. The windows of his boat were soon smashed, also a portion of his travelling crockery. This disgraceful state of things lasted about a quarter of an hour, when the tipaots of the district turned up and somehow got the people to desist. If a Consul is thus treated, what wonder that missionaries are sometimes roughly used? The Iue-an Magistrate came up to Wenchow to apologise for the discourtesy manifested to H.M. British Consul, and we are hoping that an improvement in the attitude of the people towards foreigners will take place as a result of the rough experience of our Consul. Chinese literature is being sold here and being scattered over the whole district, implicating the British with the Formosan trouble. It is asserted that England has been helping and is helping Japan. This is stirring up much bad feeling. These small books are printed in Wenchow, and ought certainly to be put a stop to.—China Gazette.

ABANDONMENT OF THE OPIUM SQUEEZE.

Shanghai, 13th September.

When the Chinese provincial authorities some months ago, acting on the suggestion of the Peking Government, attempted to impose an extra and altogether illegal war tax of Tls. 20 per chest (which was afterwards reduced to Tls. 12 per chest or picul) upon all imported opium, their object was three-fold; first and most important, to fill their own personal pockets at the expense of the helpless and stupid consumers of opium; secondly, to contribute a certain sum without any sacrifice to the Imperial exchequer, which would be recognized by the bestowal of honours and reward; and thirdly, to handicap India opium to the great advantage of the native drug, in which many of the highest officials in the Empire have an important but illegal interest. The great British opium importers lost no time in bringing the subject to the attention of the authorities, but little was done by their representatives in China in the matter. The Indian Government, however, was not so slow to move and strong representations were at its instance forwarded to Peking, pointing out the irregularity of the proposed measure. The result has been the collapse of the entire little scheme. The office which was opened in Shanghai at the back of the opium dealers' guild, by the advice of a foreign adviser of the Chinese, was shut up a couple of days ago, and the mandarins' myrmidons, who were installed there with all their "chops," sign boards, seals, and so forth, necessary for the regular collection of the proposed illicit revenue, have betaken themselves off elsewhere, and the Opium War Tax office is deserted and desolate to-day. A certain mandarin who was to have a lucrative office in connection with the collection of this proposed tax, is looking out for another "job,"

while a number of natives, compradores and others, who were advancing cheerfully in anticipation of a handsome return, have gone smash, one of them leaving a foreign firm, of which he was a trusted servant, minus several thousand taels.—China Gazette.

HONGKONG.

Business has been very brisk at the Supreme Court this week, and in addition to the civil cases there was a case of murderous assault tried at the Criminal Sessions, and the prisoner was given a deservedly heavy punishment. Several vessels have come into harbour reporting meeting with a typhoon and sustaining considerable damage. The Willard Opera Company closed its season last night. On the 17th inst. the man who took a leading part in the stoning of a party of visitors at Kowloon City was given two hundred strokes with a bamboo. The annual meeting of the Hongkong Football Club was held on Thursday, and on Saturday the shareholders of the Douglas Steamship Company held their meeting.

There were 2,102 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 189 were Europeans.

A patient suffering from plague, who had been residing on the ground floor of No. 44, Second Street, was admitted into the Kennedy-town Hospital on the 16th inst. and died the same evening.

Holders of the stock of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company may be interested to hear that, so soon as the military operations are over in South Formosa, several of the Japanese transports will be sent here to be docked.

There has been a rumour amongst the Chinese during the last day or two that Li Hung-chang had taken poison and succumbed to its effects. We have been unable to obtain any reliable confirmation of the rumour, which is probably unfounded.

A horse drowned himself in the harbour two days ago. He was harnessed to a trap and was being driven by a Chinaman when the animal suddenly made up his mind to rush off the Praya into the sea. Neither the driver nor the cart was injured, but the horse was drowned.

On Monday afternoon Hon. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry concerning the death of a Chinaman who was employed at the Sugar Refinery. The deceased fell into a tank of boiling sugar, and suffered such injuries that he died soon afterwards. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Leung Shun Cheung, who returned from banishment and who is alleged to have fired at a district watchman, was sent to gaol at the Magistracy on the 18th inst. for twelve months on the first charge. He had been committed for trial, but the Attorney-General sent the case back to be dealt with by the Magistrate.

The Queen, on 12th August, held a Second Private Investiture of the Orders of the Bath, St. Michael and St. George, the Indian Empire, and the Distinguished Service Order. Her Majesty, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) and Her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, entered the Council Room shortly after three o'clock. Amongst the Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George introduced into the presence of the Sovereign was Mr. Francis Henry May, Captain Superintendent of Police in the colony of Hongkong. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to affix to Mr. May's left breast the decoration of the Order into which he has been admitted.

The light at Cape D'Aguilar will be exhibited for the last time on the 29th February next. Since the lighthouse on Waglan Island was erected about two years ago the Cape D'Aguilar light has been of little or no use, as the Waglan light has served as guide to vessels coming from or going to the North. There was a talk of placing the spare light at Kowloon Point as a harbour light, but this idea has been abandoned, as practically no benefit would be derived therefrom. Some people have deprecated the removal of Cape D'Aguilar light, as Waglan Island belongs to China and in case of trouble with England its light would be extinguished. In such an event, however, the island would be taken possession of by England for the time being.

the Club, and had always maintained a most active interest in its welfare. The Chairman having suitably responded, the meeting then proceeded to vote \$50 towards the cost of the Hongkong Challenge Cup. This was agreed to after some discussion. The advisability of roping in the ground for important fixtures was raised, and ultimately referred to the Committee. After some questions had been asked regarding the Challenge Cup and the Club's colours, Mr. C. M. Firth said he wished to bring before the members the necessity for regular attendance at the practice games, for without such attention progress and success could not be expected in the ensuing season. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close. The officers and Committee for 1895-6 are:—Hon. J. H. Stewart Lockhart, President; Mr. G. H. Potts, Captain Rugby; Mr. C. M. Firth, Captain Association; Mr. J. C. Cameron, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. F. Browne, Hon. Secretary; Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Mr. A. Sharp, Rev. R. F. Cobbold, Mr. E. D. Sanders, Mr. P. G. Davies, R.A., Committee.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

There was a large attendance of members at the ranges on the 14th inst. to compete for the newly started Short Range Cup, which was won by H. McPhail, the Spoons being taken by R. Rutter, Private Melhuish, Captain Bethune, Private Gigg, and Sapper Hare. The following were the best scores:—

	200 yards.	300 yards.	Handi- cap.	To- tal.
H. McPhail	30	29	12	71
R. Rutter	31	22	12	65
Private Melhuish	32	27	4	63
Captain Bethune	32	26	4	62
Private Gigg	29	22	10	61
Sapper Hare	31	25	5	61
Sgt. Major Moorish	33	27	—	60
Lieut. Lee Dillon	27	29	4	60
W. Stewart	33	21	6	60
W. White	22	24	14	60

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

PERJURY IN THE COURTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—Enthusiasts are proverbially inaccurate and inclined to colour their facts to suit their arguments, but when a man undertakes a crusade against misstatement and perjury surely his statements should be absolutely true and correct. Your contemporary in commenting upon the recent case in the Supreme Court in which the plaintiff sought to set aside a deed is not accurate in his facts. No witness who attested the widow's signature was forthcoming and no officer of the Court could swear that he had seen her write her name. The jury very properly drew inferences from the evidence, but an inference is not a logical necessity. Because the widow denied signing a document which it appeared she had signed, it might be inferred, but it did not necessarily follow, that she had signed a totally different document bearing her name. Because she told one lie, it did not necessarily follow that she told two. Her case still remains a logical possibility, and no one who listened to the whole of the evidence could believe that the plaintiff had a monopoly of the lying. Possibly it is considerations of this sort which prevent the more frequent punishment for false witness by our Judges, whose first duty it is.

AUDI ALTERAM PARTEM.

Hongkong, 16th September, 1895.

RAUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—I observe that the report of last month's crushing at Raub is somewhat less satisfactory than the previous month's. It seems to me that if the management were to pay more attention to breaking out ore and getting it to the mill much more satisfactory results would be had. Why they should be perpetually pro-

ceeding with development work when they have enough payable ore in sight to keep the battery constantly at work for two years is somewhat of a mystery to me? There is no doubt that the mine is a sound concern, the quantity of gold per ton being a fairly steady amount—none of your ten ounce to the ton wild cat concerns—and the lodes proved to be permanent over a wide area. They could very well put up another twenty head of stamps and crush 3,000 tons of ore per month for 1,500 ounces gold if they would go on with that and leave development till required.

A SHAREHOLDER FROM THE
START OF THE CONCERN.
Hongkong, 17th September, 1895.

SIR ROBERT HART.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—The public owe you a debt for throwing a search light on one of the dark corners of Peking politics and calling their notice to the true position of the foreign confidential adviser to the Chinese Government. As you very neatly put it, "When a litigant desires advice he is not likely to go to his opponent's attorney or counsel; further, 'We have high authority for saying that no man can serve two masters.' On referring to this high authority I find that he goes on to say, 'For either he will hate the one and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.' Now we cannot of course say that the quotation is exactly applicable, in fact we must try to suppose that it is not, but there remains the fact that the person in question declined the honour of filling the honourable post of acting as his Queen's and country's representative at the Court of Peking, where he was believed to have very great influence, for the more lucrative post of representing the interests of his Celestial masters. How any British government could be so infatuated—it is to be presumed that they were ill informed as to Chinese ideas and methods—as to offer to a servant of the Chinese the position of representative of British interests and the dignity of his Queen and country is all but incomprehensible, for he could only retain his influence with the Chinese by remaining their humble servant, which of course would be incompatible with British interests, and he could never be accepted as treating with them on an equal footing as representative of Great Britain. Fortunately for British dignity and interests he preferred to retain the position of servant to the Chinese.

OBSERVER.

Hongkong, 17th September, 1895.

THE KUCHENG AND OTHER OUTRAGES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—The present check in the proceedings of the Kucheng Commission accords well with the general forecast that the transfer on promotion of Minister O'Connor would be construed by the Chinese as an indication of the British Government's disapproval of the Minister's late vigorous attitude. A question arises whether it would not be expedient, by way of set off, as it were, to Taotai Hsu's ultimatum, to call a public meeting to submit to our Government a statement of the conditions which this colony thinks should be imposed on China; and in this connection it is well to remember that the Kucheng tragedy is only the culminating outrage of a series. Shanghai and other ports will doubtless not be backward in helping us to form public opinion at home by giving public expression to their views on this question and, as a start, probably most of us would agree that the following are amongst the points to be recommended to the home Government's consideration:—

- 1.—Execution of proved participators in murder—as a matter of course.
- 2.—Punishment of high officials or personages shown to have been guilty of having incited to, or countenanced, or negligently failed to take precautions against the occurrence of any of the recent outrages in China.
- 3.—Reparation from the Central Government as such.
- 4.—Reparation, in the shape of pecuniary mulcts, from each of the guilty provinces.
- 5.—(a) The erection and maintenance, at the

Chinese Government's expense, on the spot of the murders, of a fitting memorial to the murdered, and the annual saluting of the British flag there on the anniversaries of the murders in the presence of suitable officers for a prescribed term of years.

(b) The saluting of the British flag at the capital of the province in the presence of the Viceroy.

6.—A formal promise to settle promptly all outstanding claims and matters of grievance on the part of British subject against the Chinese authorities.

For point (2), which appears to command general assent, a precedent exists in the first of the separate and secret articles of the Treaty between France and China, 1858, whereby a certain Chinese official was declared thenceforward incapable of holding office; a punishment which to make it effectual should be supplemented by a term of banishment to a British possession.

For points (3) and (4) Mr. Richardson's case in Japan, 1862-3, seems to afford an analogy. Mr. Richardson was murdered, on a road open to Englishmen by Treaty, by retainers in the suite of the powerful Prince of Satsuma, over whom the Shogun's Government had infinitely less authority than the Government of Peking has over its Viceroys, yet the Shogun's Government for that and other then recent outrages paid a mulct of £100,000 sterling, and also agreed that the Prince of Satsuma should be liable to a special penalty of £25,000, and should in addition bring the murderers to justice. In consequence of the delay and subsequent resistance of Satsuma, his capital, Kagoshima, was bombarded, the greater part of it laid in ashes, and redress obtained. Thus the plea of impotency put in by the Central Government was met by the affirmation of the principle of the joint and several liability of the Central and the Provincial authorities.

As to point (3) it is clear that the amends to be exacted from the Central Government need not be pecuniary; on the contrary public opinion in the colony appears to be unanimous in the sentiment that such reparation had much better, as you suggest, take the form of rectification of the Kowloon frontier, and the opening of the West River.

As to point (5) we all know the significance attached by the rite-ridden people of China to ceremonies affecting "face;" it would therefore seem well that our Government should act on that knowledge.

Point (6) would serve to show that the period of forbearance with evasions of Treaty had ended, and that a period of insistence on exact performance of Treaty obligations had begun.

If the suggestion to hold another Public Meeting meets with favour doubtless some of those prominent citizens who took steps before will do so again.

E. R.

Hongkong, 17th September, 1895.

OUR FOREIGN OFFICE AND ITS CHINESE ADVISERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."
SIR,—One may be inclined to think that "Observer" has no sufficient reason for resurrecting the dead past by referring at this time of day to the offer of the post of British Minister at Peking made to Sir Robert Hart some years ago; but affairs political in China are at the present moment fast fermenting and the result will be great changes; although what these changes will lead to no one can presume to guess. Absurd as the action of the British Government then seemed to me, and probably to all old China hands, there is unfortunately every indication that the councils of the Foreign Office in London are, in this matter, guided with as little wisdom now as then, and it is quite possible that the same or a similar mistake might be again made. Nay, it is even asserted that the agency at Storey's Gate is able to make its influence felt at Downing Street, and that Downing Street is rather given to asking its advice. Its views are of course those of "the great I. G.," and his views, presuming him to be honest, we may assume to be those of the Chinese Government. That "the great I. G." has striven to be sole dictator of the relations between foreign powers and China is an accepted belief, and he almost

attained to that position. He has endeavoured to reduce to nonentities all the foreign Ministers, and that, since the time of Sir Harry Parkes, he succeeded in doing so with British Ministers admits of very little doubt. That his influence has seriously interfered with British interests I do not at present say, as that is not the question immediately before us; but that his present position ought to debar the British Government from seeking his advice either direct from Peking or through his London agents seems self evident. That as British Minister he would have been (perhaps in view of possible eventualities I may add, or would be) acceptable to the Chinese Government is extremely unlikely, and that, as having been their former servant, they would not accord him the deference which a British Minister ought to demand may be taken for granted.

But there is a still more dangerous source to which the Foreign Office seems to look for information, and it would almost appear as if they looked to it for advice and guidance also; that is, the Chinese Legation in London. Lord Salisbury on the important occasion of his reply to the address on the speech from the throne, said, "I am bound to say that that feeling, so far as we know, is fully shared by the Chinese Government itself. The Emperor of China caused his Minister at this Court to convey to me the extreme horror and indignation with which he had heard the news and his resolution to bring to speedy and condign justice those who are guilty of these atrocious crimes." This needs no comment here. We who are on the spot can only lament the little wisdom with which the Foreign Office appears to be governed in conducting our relations with China. Even knowledge of his own special province does not seem to come to the aid of our Foreign Minister. As a resident in China before Sir Thomas Wade (or was Sir Robert Hart the real instigator?) induced the Chinese Government to send ambassadors to Europe, and being perforce a student of our political and commercial relations with China, I have always held that the appointment of these ambassadors was far the greatest blow which British and indeed all foreign interests in China have ever suffered. I prophesied that negotiations would be transferred from Peking to London, that is, from men who had some opportunity of judging for themselves and of learning residents' opinions of Chinese character to men who had none, to those who would judge a Chinese ambassador to be a man like unto themselves, and who, even being trained diplomatists, would have no conception of the chicanery of the Chinamen or of their Chinese-trained foreign advisers. Was I right? I hold the same opinion more strongly now.—Yours faithfully,

Hongkong, 18th September, 1895.

THE SHANGHAI-NANKING RAILWAY.

Peking, 18th September.

The Emperor gave consent a short time ago to a joint proposition of the Viceroy Chang of Nanking and Governor Chao of Soochow to connect the latter city with Shanghai by a railway. When this is completed the line is to be extended northwards through Wusieh on to Chinkiang, and from thence westwards a branch line will be laid to Nanking. All these cities are in Kiangsu province. A secret decree has been sent to the two high officials to commence work as soon as practicable.

This is apparently to forestall an anticipated demand of the Japanese to be allowed to build a railway between Shanghai and Soochow and Hangchow as soon as these two ports shall have been formally opened as treaty ports. It is also averred that the Emperor has given his consent to a scheme strongly recommended by the Viceroy Chang, with the cognisance of Governor Chao, for the establishment by a Chinese syndicate of a river steamboat service between Shanghai, Soochow, and way towns. This new steamboat company will also undertake to carry the mails. The Kiangsu Government will be given the power to inaugurate the postal administration on European lines, and to simplify matters as well as to avoid friction the numerous private postal agencies

will be given the opportunity of acting as Government agencies at the various towns. There is every reason to believe that the first two schemes named above will be inaugurated very shortly, the various head officers of the movement having been already fixed upon by the provincial Government in question.—N. C. Daily News telegram.

STONING A BRITISH CONSUL.

Our Wenchow correspondent writing on the 10th inst. relates the following incident:—Our Consul had a lively half-hour the other day, in passing through the hsien city of Iue-an. He was returning from a visit to Ping-yang, and like all other foreign travellers going to or coming from that city had to pass through a portion of Iue-an. He had heard that foreigners were generally stoned, etc., when passing through that place, and so had taken the precaution to have a guard of yamen runners. All passed off well during his short passage through the city, and he was congratulating himself on his peaceful progress as he entered his boat. He soon learned the temper of the people, however, for no sooner had he got into his boat than a shower of missiles came from the people on the banks of the canal, and the usual vile yells rang from their throats. The windows of his boat were soon smashed, also a portion of his travelling crockery. This disgraceful state of things lasted about a quarter of an hour, when the tipaos of the district turned up and somehow got the people to desist. If a Consul is thus treated, what wonder that missionaries are sometimes roughly used? The Iue-an Magistrate came up to Wenchow to apologise for the discourtesy manifested to H.M. British Consul, and we are hoping that an improvement in the attitude of the people towards foreigners will take place as a result of the rough experience of our Consul. Chinese literature is being sold here and being scattered over the whole district, implicating the British with the Formosan trouble. It is asserted that England has been helping and is helping Japan. This is stirring up much bad feeling. These small books are printed in Wenchow, and ought certainly to be put a stop to.—China Gazette.

ABANDONMENT OF THE OPIUM SQUEEZE.

Shanghai, 13th September.

When the Chinese provincial authorities some months ago, acting on the suggestion of the Peking Government, attempted to impose an extra and altogether illegal war tax of Tls. 20 per chest (which was afterwards reduced to Tls. 12 per chest or picul) upon all imported opium, their object was three-fold; first and most important, to fill their own personal pockets at the expense of the helpless and stupid consumers of opium; secondly, to contribute a certain sum without any sacrifice to the Imperial exchequer, which would be recognized by the bestowal of honours and reward; and thirdly, to handicap India opium to the great advantage of the native drug, in which many of the highest officials in the Empire have an important but illegal interest. The great British opium importers lost no time in bringing the subject to the attention of the authorities, but little was done by their representatives in China in the matter. The Indian Government, however, was not so slow to move and strong representations were at its instance forwarded to Peking, pointing out the irregularity of the proposed measure. The result has been the collapse of the entire little scheme. The office which was opened in Shanghai at the back of the opium dealers' guild, by the advice of a foreign adviser of the Chinese, was shut up a couple of days ago, and the mandarins' myrmidons, who were installed there with all their "chops," sign boards, seals, and so forth, necessary for the regular collection of the proposed illicit revenue, have betaken themselves off elsewhere, and the Opium War Tax office is deserted and desolate to-day. A certain mandarin who was to have a lucrative office in connection with the collection of this proposed tax, is looking out for another "job."

while a number of natives, compradores and others, who were advancing cheerfully in anticipation of a handsome return, have gone smash, one of them leaving a foreign firm, of which he was a trusted servant, minus several thousand taels.—China Gazette.

HONGKONG.

Business has been very brisk at the Supreme Court this week, and in addition to the civil cases there was a case of murderous assault tried at the Criminal Sessions, and the prisoner was given a deservedly heavy punishment. Several vessels have come into harbour reporting meeting with a typhoon and sustaining considerable damage. The Willard Opera Company closed its season last night. On the 17th inst. the man who took a leading part in the stoning of a party of visitors at Kowloon City was given two hundred strokes with a bamboo. The annual meeting of the Hongkong Football Club was held on Thursday, and on Saturday the shareholders of the Douglas Steamship Company held their meeting.

There were 2,102 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 189 were Europeans.

A patient suffering from plague, who had been residing on the ground floor of No. 44, Second Street, was admitted into the Kennedytown Hospital on the 16th inst. and died the same evening.

Holders of the stock of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company may be interested to hear that, so soon as the military operations are over in South Formosa, several of the Japanese transports will be sent here to be docked.

There has been a rumour amongst the Chinese during the last day or two that Li Hung-chang had taken poison and succumbed to its effects. We have been unable to obtain any reliable confirmation of the rumour, which is probably unfounded.

A horse drowned himself in the harbour two days ago. He was harnessed to a trap and was being driven by a Chinaman when the animal suddenly made up his mind to rush off the Praya into the sea. Neither the driver nor the cart was injured, but the horse was drowned.

On Monday afternoon Hon. H. E. Wodehouse held an inquiry concerning the death of a Chinaman who was employed at the Sugar Refinery. The deceased fell into a tank of boiling sugar, and suffered such injuries that he died soon afterwards. A verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Leung Shun Cheung, who returned from banishment and who is alleged to have fired at a district watchman, was sent to gaol at the Magistracy on the 18th inst. for twelve months on the first charge. He had been committed for trial, but the Attorney-General sent the case back to be dealt with by the Magistrate.

The Queen, on 12th August, held a Second Private Investiture of the Orders of the Bath, St. Michael and St. George, the Indian Empire, and the Distinguished Service Order. Her Majesty, accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Marchioness of Lorne) and Her Highness Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, entered the Council Room shortly after three o'clock. Amongst the Companions of the Order of St. Michael and St. George introduced into the presence of the Sovereign was Mr. Francis Henry May, Captain Superintendent of Police in the colony of Hongkong. Her Majesty was graciously pleased to affix to Mr. May's left breast the decoration of the Order into which he has been admitted.

The light at Cape D'Aguilar will be exhibited for the last time on the 29th February next. Since the lighthouse on Waglan Island was erected about two years ago the Cape D'Aguilar light has been of little or no use, as the Waglan light has served as guide to vessels coming from or going to the North. There was a talk of placing the spare light at Kowloon Point as a harbour light, but this idea has been abandoned, as practically no benefit would be derived therefrom. Some people have deprecated the removal of Cape D'Aguilar light, as Waglan Island belongs to China and in case of trouble with England its light would be extinguished. In such an event, however, the island would be taken possession of by England for the time being.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

9th September.

Li's final disappearance from the scene of twenty years' labour has so far attracted little or no attention. The Chinese officials in this province are at sixes and sevens as to the exact meaning of the long deferred move. The majority hold that he is once and for all shelved, but others stoutly hold he has gone to cut certain Gordian knots in the capital which are quite beyond the prowess of anybody else. There is no doubt that the Tsungli Yamen folk intensely desired to be quit of Mr. Hiyashi and his supplementary treaty, and that they tried to get him down here out of the way by appointing Li and Wong Wen Shou as their negotiators. The Jap was, however, too determined to deal with the Central authority, and every attempt to dislodge him failed. This withdrew the only motive for retaining Li here. His nominal office is now a Secretary of State.

Wang Wen Shou took over the seals of office a fortnight ago and is gaining good opinion all round for his moderation and caution. There is no talk of a clean sweep, and he has intimated his determination to make none till he has personally seen into everything. He has asked the foreign employees in Li's various institutions to suggest improvements. His one new departure is the unexpected scheme for a Tientsin University. This is really to be a polytechnic and a preparatory school, but as it is under American auspices, they have clapped the big name on to it. Your ex-Hongkong Ng Choy and a Cantonese named Ts'ai Chao-chi are the two native directors, while Mr. C. D. Tenney is the foreign President. The students will be drafted from Hongkong, Shanghai, and Tientsin at first, and special attention will be given to the various branches of engineering science. On dit, high class experts are coming from America, and it is assumed here that a strong American tone will be given to the whole institution.

Mr. Tenney was the very successful tutor of Li's children in English, and has for some years run an English school for well-to-do Chinese lads. He is quite au fait with Chinese manners and officials and very conversant with the language. The rocks ahead are—(1) no careers for the students; (2) no power to confer degrees and thus give official status; (3) too ambitious a beginning; (4) the absence of a free hand to the foreign directorate. Sheng Taotai has come out as a strong supporter of the scheme and, with the Viceroy Wang, is to supply the sinews of war.

Consul S. P. Read of this port is appointed to preside over the American Commission for the investigation of the Chengtu riots. Mr. Read was formerly in Russell's at Canton and is fairly well known in Hongkong. He has been a most energetic Consul during his two years' residence in Tientsin, and is a person *grata* alike to the Department and the Minister in Peking.

Cholera has vanished with the heat. The Chinese are publishing panic figures as to its awful mortality. These statistics are worthless, but there is ample evidence that the epidemic almost touched plague level.

Give the Devil his due and say one good word for the Hoo braves. When some 600 or 700 riddled soldiers were sent here to be cured and operated on, the men showed almost a horror at entering the French hospital. But a day or two's experience of the Sisters' goodness and skill soon converted them. When cured they were discharged plump, well clad, and with a Government *douceur* (this is quite true!) The other day they returned with two memorial tablets and with very hearty expressions of gratitude hung them up at the hospital gates.

Hongkong sports will be glad to hear that griffins are both abundant and promising. The dealers have recovered confidence that their mobs will not be confiscated by unscrupulous officials under the plausible pretext of the country's necessity. Similarly the enormous stocks of wool warehoused between Kalgan and Ning-sia are being liberated and are now coming forward in bulk. *Re* horses your readers may be interested to know that Lieutenants Taylor and Buzzard of Hongkong are here. They are go-

ing up to Mongolia to choose their own horse-flesh and are taking with them a waler mare, in the hope of finding some Mongol breeder who will be willing to try a new strain of blood. If I remember correctly the *Chinese Times* several times commended this policy (and the cognate one of importing sires) to the leviathan proprietors in Shanghai. Mr. Taylor's spirited attempt is attracting much attention among our old sports.

The river is improving and steamers now reach the bund. The weather is suggestive of champagne.

MISCELLANEOUS.

At Foochow on the 8th inst. two hundred houses were burnt down on the island between From the *N. C. Daily News* we learn that owing to anticipated disturbances at Wuchang all the foreign ladies and children there had gone over to Hankow before the 12th instant.

At Kobe, on the 11th inst., as the N.Y.K. chartered steamer *Azamor* was going to her berth she collided with the stern of the steamer *Donau*, cutting into the latter's taffrail with her stem. The damage done was comparatively slight.

While the *Lyceum* was discharging cartridges into lighters in the powder limits at Shanghai on the 18th inst. a case dropped and there was an explosion, a number of the cartridges going off, but fortunately nobody was hurt.

It would appear, says the *Peking and Tientsin Times*, that acting on the reports of Wang Wen-shao, fourteen Li-ites, holding more or less lucrative positions in Chihli, have been dismissed, their system of book keeping being defective.

The boom in land and houses in Shanghai continues, says the *N. C. Daily News*. The "Judge's Bungalow" has been sold for Tls. 18,000; the Agra Bank's property on the Carter Road, including the houses built by the late Mr. Benjamin, for Tls. 50,000; and the Agra Bank's property on the Kiukiang and Szechuen Roads for Tls. 65,000.

Our Shanghai morning the following announcement. Kustenfahrt Gesellschaft of Hamburg and Dampfschiffahrt Gesellschaft "Swabian" amalgamated and commencing with next all the steamers of the two companies on China coast will be under the agency of Messrs. Siemssen & Co. The steamers of the first named Company are the *Lyceum*, *Peiyang*, and *Nanyang*, and of the latter *Chusan*, *Hainan*, *Swatow*, *China*, and *Picciola*.

The *China Gazette* says:—We have good reason to believe that Li Hung-chang and Sheng Taotai are endeavouring to unload their shares in the Chinese Telegraph Administration upon their innocent fellow countrymen, and that the dodge of paying an extra dividend this year is only to bamboozle the unsuspecting natives. The most profitable part of the entire line, that connecting with Russia, is wholly destroyed by the war, and seeing what has occurred it is questionable whether it will ever be the property of the Chinese Telegraph Administration again.

There are at present some six or seven of the Canton gunboat squadron laid up in the back reach. They are tied together in pairs, perhaps with a view to economy, so that one caretaker can look after two vessels, or perhaps for mutual protection to prevent the river thieves borrowing one for a cruise or an exploring expedition, or with which to start a new republic. Strange to say, the best vessel of the fleet, the Armstrong alphabetical boat with the forty ton gun, is one of the lot, an imitation of her, of Chinese build, being seemingly considered more worthy of retention for service although built of wood and leaking like a basket, with timbers more or less rotten.

The Viceroy Chang is said to be about to start a military academy in Nanking upon the Tientsin model. There will be a European officer, and his assistants will be ten graduates of the Tientsin Academy and three or four foreign officers. The land for the new academy has been bought and the foundations will be laid in a fortnight. As it is intended to commence the school as soon as possible, a number of old Government buildings will be utilised at once for the purpose, more than a hundred candidates having already had their names enrolled on the Academy books.—*N. C. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

CANTON, 24th September.—Macao Congous.—The fortnight's settlements only amount to 1,400 boxes at Tls. 11½/15 per picul, prices ruling in favour of buyers. The only feature to note is the continued remarkable scarcity of leaf of all kinds. Scented Capers.—A quiet business only has been passing, there being no general demand. The fortnight's settlements are reported at 12,000 boxes at Tls. 8/21 per picul, making a total of 212,000 boxes, against 180,000 boxes up to the same time last year. Prices show no change, and the market may be quoted steady. Fine Teas, however, being in good supply, may perhaps be obtainable at a shade lower. For the Total Export for the Season, we must reduce our estimate to 5½ mls., and it is quite possible that even this moderate figure may not be touched.

SHANGHAI, 20th September.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s circular).—Black Tea.—The market has continued quiet, and common whole-leaf Tea has declined to Tails 11 a picul. A considerable portion of the settlements are for shipment to America.

The following settlements are reported:—
Ningchow 3,633 ½-chts. at Tls. 14 to 19 a picul.
Hohow 971 " " 12 to 16½ "
Kutoan 304 " " 16 to — "
Ichang 400 " " 22 to 25 "
Oopam 4,070 " " 11 to 16 "
Oopack 1,156 " " 12 to 14 "

Total 10,534 ½-chest
Stock.—98,016 half

The pickings. It is an of the crop with any degree or well informed natives do not put the probable increase in Country Teas at less than 30,000 half-chests.

Settlements reported since 6th instant:—

	½-chts.	a picul.
Pingsuey	13,990	at Tls. 16.00 to 29.75
Moyune	12,297	" 20.00 to 38.00
Tienkai	11,929	" 16.50 to 45.00
Fychow	3,342	" 14.00 to 21.75
Local Packed	3,814	" 14.50 to 23.75

Total.....45,372 ½-chts.

Total settlements from opening of the market to date:—

Pingsuey	140,512 ½-chts.	against 113,531 ½-chts.
Moyune	48,968	" 53,252 "
Tienkai	37,847	" 34,994 "
Fychow	13,740	" 9,879 "
Local P'ked	16,953	" 12,214 "

Total.....258,020 ½-chts. Total 223,873 ½-chts.
Total arrivals to date are:—315,195 half-chests, against 263,962 half-chests to same date last year.

SILK.

CANTON, 24th September.—The fifth crop yield is estimated at 7/8,000 bales of Teatless and Filatures. As far as can be judged from arrivals up to date, the quality of the silk is satisfactory. Teatless.—No business is reported

in this class. Re-reels.—Settlements of Nos. 1, 2, 3 have been effected to the extent of about 150 bales at \$540/542½ for No. 1. The market closes firmer with buyers of No. 1 alone, at \$545, no sellers. Filatures.—An active demand has developed in fourth crop silk for Lyons during the fortnight and buyers have readily paid the prices asked. Settlements amount to about 1,300 bales, latest rates paid being \$720/715 for Cheon Kee 9/11 and Kwang Sun On 10/12, \$720/717½ for Miu King Lun 10/12, 11/13, \$715 for Wing Wo Lun 9/11, \$700 for Kum Lun Cheong and Poo Cheong Wo 10/12, \$690 for Kum King Cheong and Wing Hing Lun 13/15, \$610 for King Wo Cheong and Man Po Sing 18/22, \$615/600 for 3rd class 11/13, 13/15. It is reported that Kai Cheong Loong has sold 50 bales in 9/11 from his reelings of Shanghai Cocoons at \$880=fms. 45/25. A steady demand has ruled in shortreels for America and best chops have sold at full prices, viz., \$695 for Kwong Shun Hang and Kwang Sun On 14/16, \$680 for Chung Sun Hang 14/16, \$660/665 for Poo Cheong Wo and Sooy Lun Hing 14/16, \$645 for Hip Sam Choy and Siu Lun Cheong 14/16. Third class have found ready sale at \$590/600 for tru 14/16, \$665/570 for 14/18 and \$545/550 for 16/20. Fair second class are very scarce and although actively enquired for are almost unobtainable. Waste—Is quiet at previous prices. Steam is in good demand and has sold at subjoined rates and even at lower, according to quality. Pierced Cocoons are also enquired for. Other sorts are neglected. Stocks.—Tsatiee 1,000 bales. Filature 2,500 bales. We append quotations in Canton, with laying down cost in London and Lyons. Exchange, 6 months' sight, 2/2½ and Fcs. 2.82 per dollar.

Tsatiee	No. 1	\$500	= 9/2½
	No. 2	\$485	= 8/11½
	No. 3	\$470	= 8/8
	No. 4	\$450	= 8/3½
	No. 5	\$435	= 8/
	No. 6	\$425	= 7/9

Filature 1st class	11/13	\$710 to \$720
1st	13/15	\$710 to \$720
2nd	9/11	\$725 to \$730
2nd	10/12	\$710 to \$720
2nd	13/15	\$690 to \$700
2nd	10/12	\$680 to \$690
3rd	11	\$610 to \$620
3rd	11	\$610 to \$620

SHANGHAI, 19th September.—(From Messrs Cromie and Burkill's circular.)—London telegrams dated 17th current report the market "firmer," but quotations are unchanged. Raw Silk.—Business has been on a large scale and fully 2,500 bales have been settled. Prices for favourite chops show an advance on last week's quotations, and the market closes strong. Tsatiees.—About 1,500 bales have changed hands at an advance of Tls. 2½ to Tls. 5 on Gold Kiling grades. Holders are very firm. Taysaams.—Have continued in good demand at rather higher prices. Yellow Silks.—Settlements are about 350 bales, and prices show a decided upward tendency, and Meryang Extra No. 1 have changed hands at Tls. 265. Arrivals, according to Customs Returns from the 12th to the 18th September, are 1,877 bales of White, 512 bales of Yellow and 92 bales of Wild Silk. Re-reels and Filatures.—In Re-reels 150 bales Worm and Leaf chop have been settled at Tls. 405, Tls. 395, Tls. 385 for No. 1, 2 and 3 respectively, and in the Market Filatures about 200 bales. Pegasus and Fan chops have been taken for the Continent at the quotations given below. Wild Silk.—We do not hear of any transactions. Waste Silk.—The business doing is of small importance, but holders remain firm at the quotations given last week. Pongees.—Shantung have been dealt

in to a fair extent, and as stocks are small, holders are asking full rates.

Purchases include:—Tsatiees.—Mountain 2 at Tls. 425, do. 3 at Tls. 405, do. 4 at Tls. 380, Gold Lion at Tls. 371½, Gold Kiling at Tls. 347½, Chay Kiling at Tls. 310. Hanchow Tsatiees.—Blue Lion Tayhow and Neer proportion price at Tls. 313½. Taysaam.—Wh. Kah. Lily Flower 1 at Tls. 370, Gr. Kahing M. at Tls. 336½, 9/12 Moss Single Butterfly at Tls. 336½. Skeins.—Leeyang Lucky Twins 3 at Tls. 271½. Chincum.—Peach chop 1 at Tls. 330. Yellow Silk.—Mienchew at Tls. 240 to Tls. 267½, Meryang at Tls. 215 to Tls. 235, Fooyung at Tls. 207½, Szechong at Tls. 168½. Filature.—Pegasus 1, 2 and 3 at Tls. 505, Tls. 495 to Tls. 485, Fan chop 1 and 2 at Tls. 485 to Tls. 475, Worm Leaf 1, 2 and 3 at Tls. 405, Tls. 395, to Tls. 385.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—Holders are very firm and no fresh supplies coming forward prices have advanced considerably. Quotations for Formosa are \$93.10 to \$93.50. During the past week sales have been 50 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—The market has continued firm, but with only a small business passing. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.26 to 7.30 per pel. do. " 2, White... 6.90 to 6.92 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.77 to 4.80 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.62 to 4.66 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.17 to 7.20 " do. " 2, White... 6.80 to 6.83 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.45 to 4.47 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.27 to 4.30 " Foochow Sugar Candy... 10.30 to 10.35 " Shekloong " " 8.85 to 8.90 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The British steamer *Annandale*, Hongkong to New York, 4th September, took:—23,137 rolls Matting, 11,947 packages Merchandise, 1,300 boxes Palm Leaf Fans, 280 cases Preserved Ginger, 400 boxes Saigon Cassia, 100 boxes Cassia Buds, 500 packages Fire Crackers, 30 cases Dried Lychees, and 10 casks Ginger.

The steamer *Strathgillan*, Hongkong to Havre, 4th September, took:—445 mts. Matt: 372

ong to London, 106 boxes Tea (149,121 lbs. Scented Orange Congou), 230 bales Pierced Waste Silk, 50 bales Canes, 23 P. Shells, 20 packages Sundries, 15 Essential Oil, 100 casks Soy, 323 bags Gum, cases Cigars, 5,615 bales Hemp, 560 rolls Matting, 1,701 boxes Preserves, 585 cases Preserves, 14 cases Blackwoodware, 124 cases Chinaware, and 9 cases Bristles; for London option Manchester:—205 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—500 bales Hemp; for Glasgow:—5 cases Sundries.

The German steamer *Bellona*, Hongkong to Havre, 14th September, took:—49 cases Bristles, 50 bales Bambooware, 100 cases Camphor, and 450 packages Tea; for Havre option Hamburg:—75 bales Canes and 568 cases Camphor; for Havre option Hamburg option London:—2,000 boxes Cassia Ligna, and 225 bales Bamboos; for Hamburg:—75 cases Essential Oil, 220 bales Canes, 2 cases Silks, 2 cases China Ink, 20 cases Bristles, 89 rolls Matting, 2,000 bales Broken Cassia, 1,008 cases Cassia, 46 cases Teasticks, 185 cases Preserves, 110 casks Preserves, 170 bales Rattan Shavings, 70 bales Rattancore, 15 cases Palmleaf Fans, 4 cases Curios, 19 packages Merchandise, and 16 packages Sundries; for Hamburg option London:—17 bales Canes, and 35 bales Bristles; for London:—10 cases Essential Oil, and 50 bales Matting.

The steamer *Nestor*, Hongkong to London, 14th September, took:—52 cases Blackwoodware, 136 cases Chinaware, 50 cases Strawcuffs, 53 rolls Matting, 10 cases Paper, 1,339 packages Crackers, 103 casks Preserves, 105 cases Preserves, 10 cases Aniseed Oil, 59 packages Sundries, 10 packages Rattancore, 12 packages Rattanware, 39 cases Bristles, and 1 case Cigars.

The German steamer *Oldenburg*, Hongkong to Singapore, 17th September, took:—2 bales Paper, and 1 case Merchandise; for Colombo:—15 cases Merchandise; for Beyrouth:—10 cases Glass Bangles; for Trieste:—10 boxes Essential Oil, and 120 packages Tea; for Genoa:—100 bales Waste Silk; for Milan:—100 bales Waste Silk; for Basle:—270 bales Waste Silk; for Antwerp:—32 rolls Matting, 30 packages Tea, 25 bales Rattancore, 21 packages Chinaware, and 1 case Silk Goods; for Amsterdam:—275 packages Preserves, and 6 cases Chinaware; for London:—97 boxes Essential Oil; for Hamburg:—1,250 packages Tea, 2,000 boxes Cassia, 1 box Merchandise, 16 packages Fire Crackers, 20 boxes Cigars, and 602 bales Feathers; for Bremen:—622 packages Tea, 210 rolls Matting, 5 cases Sundries, 10 boxes Palmleaf Fans, 3 cases Silks, 2 boxes China Ink, 5 cases Bristles, and 5 cases Cigars; for Lisbon:—17 cases Chinaware, and 2 cases Sundries; for Buenos Ayres:—125 packages Tea.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—Bengal.—The market has ruled quiet during the period under review, but prices have not undergone much alteration. Latest rates are \$717½ for New and \$710 for Old Patna, \$717½ for New and \$687½ for Old Benares.

Malwa.—Transactions have been very meagre during the interval, and rates have declined. Current figures are as under:—

New\$690 with advance of 1½ to 4 cts. Old (2 years)...\$710 " " 1 to 2 " Older\$740 " " 0 to 3 "

Persian.—Paper-wrapped drug continues in strong demand, and is quoted at \$740 to \$865 according to quality. Oily has been neglected, quotations closing at \$660 to \$700.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—New Patna1,720 chests. Old Patna..... 44 " New Benares 320 " Old Benares..... 190 " Malwa 960 " Persian 750 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1895.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 18	712½/715	705	706½	680	690	700/711
Sept. 19	717½	710	710	680	690	700/740
Sept. 20	717½	710	712½	685	690	700/740
Sept. 21	720	712½	715	685	690	700/740
Sept. 22	722½/725	715	717½	687½	690	700/740
Sept. 23	722½/725	715	720	687½	690	700/740
Sept. 24	722½/725	715	720	687½	690	70/740
Sept. 25	722½/725	710	717½	687½	690	700/740

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—The market remains quiet. Nothing doing in Indian Cotton, which is being held for higher rates. Sales of China staple can be made at, or slightly under, quotations, but demand is limited. Stocks: 798 bales Bengal and about 500 bales China.

Bombay\$14.00 to 17.00 ppcul. Kurrachee 14.00 to 17.00 " Bengal, Rangoon, and } 14.00 to 17.50 " Dacca, 14.00 to 17.50 " Shanghai and Japanese.. 18.00 to 18.50 " Tungchow and Ningpo.. 18.00 to 18.50 " Madras..... 16.00 to 18.00 " Sales: 55 bales Bengal, Rangoon, and Dacca 500 bales Shanghai and Japanese, Tungchow and Ningpo.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—The market remains as last reported. The drought continues and holders remain firm. Closing quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary\$2.08 to 2.10 " Round, good quality 2.43 to 2.45 " Long 2.55 to 2.57 Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2... 2.10 to 2.12 " Garden, " No. 1... 2.55 to 2.57 Siam White..... 3.12 to 3.15 " Fine Cargo 3.24 to 3.26

COALS.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—The market is very weak. Small sales of Japanese reported at low prices ex godown. Quotations are:—

Cardiff\$12.00 to 13.00 ex ship, sellers. Australian ... — to 7.50 ex godn., nominal. Mike Lump... 6.50 to — ex ship, nominal. Mike Small... 5.50 to — ex ship, nominal. Moji Lump... 4.50 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal. Kebao Lump... 6.50 to 7.00 ex ship, nominal. Kebao Small... 4.00 to 4.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn.*—1,150 bales No. 10 at \$63.50 to \$73.50 810 bales No. 12 at \$71.50 to \$77.50, 480 bales No. 16 at \$74 to \$85.50, 1,080 bales No. 20 at \$81 to \$85.50. *Grey Shirtings.*—800 pieces 7 lbs. Red Lion at \$1.75, 2,000 pieces 10 lbs. Stag at \$3.77½, 3,900 pieces 8½ lbs. Blue Joss B at \$2.77½, 600 pieces Red Fish at \$2.17½, 1,500 pieces Blue Fish at \$2.27½, 900 pieces Blue Crab at \$2.32½, 1,200 pieces 3 Dogs at \$2.77½, 3,000 pieces Red Peach at \$2.50, 600 pieces 8½ lbs. Green Peaches at \$2.20, 1,800 pieces Double Fulung at \$2.65, 5,000 pieces No. 300 at \$3.35, 1,000 pieces 11 lbs. Carriage Chop at \$3.60, 500 pieces Blue Hunter at \$3.47½, 300 pieces Red Fish at \$2.17½. *White Shirtings.*—500 pieces 1 chop at \$2.90, 500 pieces 3 chop at \$3.10, 1,000 pieces 4,000 Double Fish at \$3.20, 2,000 pieces S.Q. at \$4.05, 500 pieces S.S. at \$4.30, 450 pieces E.K. at \$5.55, 150 pieces D.K. at \$4.55, 500 pieces R.E.R.R. at \$4.15, 300 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.65, 300 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.35, 1,000 pieces D. 70 at \$3.35, 500 pieces 4,000 D. Fish at \$3.20, 300 pieces N. 2 at \$5.92½, 1,000 pieces M.H. at \$5, 750 pieces Gold Joss at \$3.12½, 1,000 pieces O. Mark at \$4.15, 900 pieces V. 1 at \$5.57½, 500 pieces X 6 at \$3.45, 500 pieces X 7 at \$3.75, 1,500 pieces Soldier at \$2.50, 500 pieces No. 500 at \$3.20, 1,500 pieces S.O. at \$3.85, 1,750 pieces Gold Dragon at \$5.05. *T. Cloths.*—500 pieces 6 lbs. Bombay at \$1.60, 1,500 pieces 8 lbs. Mer. Hunter and Stag C.C. at \$2.90, 375 pieces 8 lbs. Blue Dragon B.B. at \$2.21, 750 pieces 7 lbs. Mer. Silver Lion No. 1 at \$1.81, 750 pieces Mer. Silver Lion No. 2 at \$1.78. *Drills.*—450 pieces 14 lbs. Blue Dragon at \$3.75. *Turkey Reds.*—500 pieces 2½ lbs. Mandarin at \$1.42½, 500 pieces 1½ lbs. \$1.35, 500 pieces 1½ lbs. at \$1.40. *Long Ells.*—875 pieces 9 lbs. Scarlet at \$6.90 to \$6.95. *Camlets.*—480 pieces 9 Old Men assorted at \$18.25, 40 pieces Dark Blue at \$8.50, 700 pieces 8 Persons assorted at \$18, 450 pieces Women and Baby assorted at \$17, 400 pieces 4 Cocks at \$13.40, 100 pieces Griffin assorted at \$12.75, 80 pieces Cock-head at \$16.50, 200 pieces 3 Fish at \$14.60, 150 pieces Green Dragon assorted at \$17.

METALS.—*Iron.*—4,000 bundles nail rods, Belgian No. 1/6 at \$2.85. *Yellow Metal.*—95 cases New Brand 14/20 ozs. at \$24. *Pin.*—200 slabs Siam at \$35.85, 200 slabs Malacca at \$35.

SHANGHAI, 20th September.—(From Mr. Geo. W. Noel's report.)—There has been a brisk demand throughout the week for all classes of goods at advancing prices, the transactions in both Cottons and Woollens from stock, and for near arrival, being very extensive, but it is difficult to estimate the total quantity. The Tientsin dealers, who have held off the market for the past two or three months, were forced to come in at last, and appear to be astonished at the strength with which their advances have been met by importers, giving out at the close that they will not be able to continue buying on the present basis. As the current rates, however, are very considerably below the cost of replacing, they will be obliged to pay up in order to provide for their winter requirements, and the time available for doing so is growing very short. The goods that show the greatest advances are undoubtedly American makes, and they certainly are dear when compared with similar cloth from the Manchester looms, which will have to be substituted for them before long. Already these are attracting more attention and, as the stocks here are very moderate, holders are able to command more satisfactory prices than have been obtainable before this year. The only other markets that show anything like activity are Newchwang and Ningpo, shipments to the former this week being on a much freer scale. The Auctions have gone with a good deal of spirit and prices show a further improvement, Woollens especially being very firm. The season for these goods is now commencing and a very fair private business has been done this week, both from stock and under indents. The high prices in Manchester are being well maintained, notwithstanding the curtailment of business caused thereby. There have been some forward transactions, however, in heavy Shirtings, Drills, Jeans, and fair Whites, even at the enhanced quotations, and the dealers have raised their limits for all kinds of fancy goods sufficient to permit of a very fair indent business being done. A further rise has taken place in Indian Yarns, the market closing quiet but firm, fresh supplies being waited for. Japanese Spinnings have followed suit, prices showing a rise of two to three per cent. over previous quotations.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report.)—20th September.—During the week attention has been more generally distributed, and, as the sales enumerated below show, interest is gradually extending to all lines. A fair amount of mail indents has been forwarded for arrival next Spring. **Metals, &c.**—100 tons L.B. Lead at Tls. 4.95, "spot"; 50 tons Australian Lead at Tls. 5.00; 250 cases Galvanised Corrugated Iron at Tls. 5.75 per picul, "to arrive"; 100 tons Gartshenke No. Pig Iron, private terms; 28 cases German Silver at Tls. 46.00 per picul, "spot"; 600 casks, 11/25, Bright Iron Wire at Tls. 4.95, "to arrive"; 50 tons English Rod Iron (special) about 27 c.i.f. The home market for Nailrods is rising, and Goffin are reported to be unable to book any orders for early delivery owing to an accident at their works. English Pig Iron has also gone up in value and the market on this side seems inclined to follow, as the causes at work at home will stop supplies of Redcar for some time to come. **Scrap Material.**—100 tons Fire Bars at Tls. 0.92½, c.i.f. (Indian); 150 tons Bale Hoops, private terms; 15 tons Boiler Plates at Tls. 1.75 "spot"; 80 tons Carts Tyres at Tls. 1.72½, "spot"; 20 do. private; 100 tons Shoes, private.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—The market has continued to rule firm and rates to advance. A fair business has been transacted in most stocks and the market closes steady all round.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai ruled neglected in the early part of the week with small sales at 183 per cent. prem.; towards the end, however, an advance in the London rate of £1 per share (£42 10s.) gave the stock a fillip and a demand at 184 meeting with little or no response, buyers had to offer 185, at which rate a few shares changed hands; market closes with further buyers and no sellers at that rate. Nationals have improved to 27½, with small sales. Bank of Chinas, &c., continue neglected.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions after further sales at \$180 have changed hands at \$185, but sellers at that rate rule the market. China Traders have continued neglected but close in better favour at \$78½. North Chinas have jumped to Tls. 220, and Yangtszes to \$123, with small sales between \$207 and \$109 respectively and those rates. Cantons have been negotiated at \$180, and close in demand at that Straits after further sales at \$24 and \$24½ are in demand at \$24½.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs have been in steady demand with sales at \$250, \$252½, \$255, and \$260; at time of writing a sale is reported at \$265. Chinas after sales at \$88, \$90, and \$91, close at \$94.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been negotiated in large lots at 35½, \$35½, \$36, \$36½, and \$36½, market closing steady at latter rate. Douglas's have been neglected with sellers at \$67 cum; and \$63.50 ex div; a few small sales are reported at latter rate. Indo-Chinas have been persistently enquired for, chiefly by Shanghai and Japan, the enquiry resulting in a fair business at \$49, \$50, \$51, \$52, and \$53; more cash shares could be placed at latter rate, but none seem forthcoming. A sale for October 31st is reported at \$53½. China and Manilas continue neglected with no business.

REFINERIES.—A steady demand, chiefly from Shanghai and Japan, has resulted in sales of China Sugars at \$105, \$106, \$107, \$109, and \$110, and of Luzons at \$58, \$60, \$62, \$64, and \$65, market for both closing steady at last rates with probable buyers.

MINING.—Punjoms have changed hands in small lots at \$5.75 and \$6, closing with sellers. We have nothing to report in other Mining stock.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have further improved their position to 127 per cent. prem., after sales at 124, 125, and 126; market closes strong with no sellers under 128. Kowloon Wharfs have continued very steady with sales at \$27, a demand at \$46½ failing to being out any shares. We have no further business to report in Wanchai Godowns.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDING.—Hongkong Lands have found buyers at \$66½ and \$66 in fair quantities, market closing steady at latter rate. West Points have changed hands at \$21, and Kowloon Lands at \$16½. Hotels have been enquired for at from \$9 to \$12, but we have heard of no sales. A few shares are obtainable at \$12½.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have pulled up at \$16, shares at that rate not finding buyers. At \$15, however, sales could be effected. Watsons have improved their position to \$13½, after further sales at \$12½ and \$13. Electrics have advanced to \$7 with sales. Ices continue in demand at \$96, but no shares seem to be forthcoming under \$100.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[sales & buyers]
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	185 p. ct. prem.,
China & Japan, prf.	...	nominal
Do. ordinary	£1	nominal
Do. deferred	£1	nominal
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$27½
Foun. Shares...	£1	\$27½, sales & buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A....	15s.	\$10
Brown & Co., H. G. ...	\$50	\$3, sellers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$110, sales & buyers
Chinese Loan '86 E....	Tls. 250	10 p. ct. prem.
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.....	\$10	\$9, sales & buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$21
Green Island Cement...	\$50	\$15, buyers
H. Brick and Cement...	\$12½	\$7, sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$110
Hongkong Electric ...	\$8	\$7, sales
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$90
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$12½, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$96, sales & buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G....	\$50	\$47, sales
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$140
H. & W. Dock	\$125	127 p. ct. prem.,
Insurances—		[buyers]
Canton.....	\$50	\$180, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$94, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$78½, sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$265, sales
North-China	£25	Tls. 220, buyers
Straits	\$20	\$24½, sales
Union	\$25	\$185, sales
Yangtsze	\$60	\$123, sales
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment.		
Humphreys Estate...		
Kowloon Land & B.		s & buyers
West Point Building		ates & sellers
Luzon Sugar		, sales & buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages.....	Res. 500	\$115, sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$3.10, sales
New Balmoral	\$3	\$4
Punjom	\$3½	\$6, sales & sellers
Do. (Preference).	\$1	\$1.50, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$4
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$62½
China Shippers	£5	£2.11.6 [sellers]
Douglas S. S. Co. ...	\$50	\$63, ex div. sales &
H. Canton and M....	\$20	\$36½, sales & buyers
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	\$53, sales & buyers
Wanchai Wareh'se Co.	\$37½	\$42½
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$13½, sales

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers.

SHANGHAI, 20th September.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report.)—**Banks.**—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Only one transaction is reported this week, a cash sale at 185 per cent premium. Our last Hongkong quotation is 185. **Shipping.**—The Shanghai Tug Boat Co. paid a second interim dividend of Tls. 5 for 1895 on the 14th instant. Indo-China S. N. shares have been placed at Tls. 35 and Tls. 36. China Mutual S. N. Ordinary shares, with 25 paid up, have been sold at Tls. 14. The usual half yearly dividend of 3 per cent on the Preference shares will be paid on the 1st October. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares were placed at \$36 locally. **Docks.**—Shares in Boyd & Co. were sold for delivery on the 31st October at Tls. 166½, and in S. C. Farnham & Co. at Tls. 165, Tls. 167½, and Tls. 170 cash. **Marine Insurance.**—China Traders' shares were placed locally at \$77. North-Chinas have been sold at Tls. 217½ for delivery on the 30th current, and at Tls. 210 to Tls. 220 cash. In Yangtszes, business was done at \$106 to \$110. Unions were placed at \$190, and Straits at \$22½ and \$23. **Fire Insurance.**—Hongkongs were placed locally at \$243. A fair business has been been done in Chinas at \$87 to \$90½ cash, and \$93½ to \$94 for delivery on the 31st March. We quote \$91½ as the closing cash rate. **Wharves.**—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—An extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders is called for the 11th November, to authorize the Directors to purchase the whole of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s interest in the Associated Wharves and in their Footung Kerosene Oil

Wharf and Godowns. This is offered at Tls. 1,140,000, of which Tls. 500,000 are to be in 6 per cent. Debentures, Tls. 610,000 in new shares in the Wharf Company, and Tls. 30,000 in cash. It is proposed to make the capital of the Company Tls. 2,000,000, in 20,000 shares of Tls. 100 each, of which the present shareholders will receive 8,601 in exchange for the 2,867 shares which they now hold; 399 new shares will be issued, 6,100 allotted to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., and 4,900 will not be issued in the meantime. Shares are offering at Tls. 310. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co.—Shares were sold to Hongkong at \$46. Miscellaneous.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were sold for delivery on the 31st December at Tls. 33½. Lazon Sugar Refining shares were purchased from Hongkong at 53½ and 558. Hall & Holtz shares have been placed, and are wanted, at \$21. Shanghai Land Investment shares have been placed, Tls. 30 paid up at Tls. 40, and fully paid up shares at Tls. 62½. The latter shares are much cheaper than the former. Shares in J. Jewell & Co. were placed, and are wanted, at \$26. Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares were sold at Tls. 50, and are offering. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 122½ for delivery on the 30th current. Shanghai Ice shares were sold at Tls. 120. Loans.—Chinese E. Loan Bonds were sold at Tls. 275 plus the accrued interest. The Shanghai Municipal Council's 5 per cent Debenture Loan for Tls. 75,000 was allotted on the 17th instant, at an average of Tls. 100.048 per cent.

WEDNESDAY, 25th September.
CLOSING QUOTATIONS.
EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	2/2½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.74
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.80
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.22
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank	53½
Credits	54½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	195
Bank, on demand	195½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	195
Bank, on demand	195½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	par.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	3 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1 % dis.
FOREIGN, Bank's Buying Rate	\$9.01
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	47.30

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 25th September.—Since last report there has been a better demand for steamers coastwise and rates have improved somewhat.

From Saigon to Hongkong there is a demand for ready medium-sized steamers at 13 to 13½ cents per picul.

From Bangkok to this a large steamer has been fixed at 18 cents inside and 13 cents outside the bar, and further tonnage is wanted at same rates.

From Newchwang to Canton the demand continues at 26 cents for middle of October, 27½ cents late October, and 29/30 cents per picul early November loading.

Japan coal freights remain unchanged; \$1.25 to Hongkong, \$1.70 to Canton, and \$1.50 to Singapore.

The Italian barque *Japan*, 396 tons register, loads hence for Callao on owner's account.

There are two vessels disengaged in port, registering 2,325 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Evandale—British steamer, 2,468 tons, to San Francisco and back, private terms.

Argyll—British steamer, 1,886 tons, hence to Yokohama and Kobe, \$4,500 in full.

Argyll—British steamer, 1,886 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.25 per ton.

Strathallan—British steamer, 1,489 tons, Moji to Amoy and Hongkong, private terms.

Taurus—Norwegian steamer, 1,031 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$1.50 per ton.

Cassius—German steamer, 1,606 tons, Hoihow to Singapore, passengers, \$5 each.

Victoria—Swedish steamer, 988 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 20 cents per picul.

Brunhilde—German steamer, 977 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

An Indo-China S. N. Co. steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 27½ cents per picul.

Progress—German steamer, 798 tons, three trips, Newchwang to Canton, 24, 27, and 29 cents per picul.

Inverlay—British steamer, 827 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 26 cents per picul.

Bygdo—Norwegian steamer, 916 tons, two trips, Newchwang to Canton, 26 and 30 cents per picul.

Nanchang—British steamer, 1,063 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 27½ cents per picul.

Clara—German steamer, 675 tons, two trips, Newchwang to Amoy, 28 cents per picul.

Sabine Rickmers—German steamer, 690 tons, two trips, Newchwang to Amoy, 25 and 30 cents per picul.

Sultan—German steamer, 1,626 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 13 and 18 cents per picul.

Holstein—German steamer, 1,105 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

Siam—British steamer, 992 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Ocampo—British steamer, 1,329 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 10 cents per picul.

China—German steamer, 1,093 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 11 cents per picul.

Inverlay—British steamer, 827 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 12 cents per picul.

Tetartos—German steamer, 1,578 tons, monthly, 6/3 months, \$6,500 per month.

Amigo—German steamer, 822 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,400 per month.

Strathallan—British steamer, 1,489 tons, monthly, 3/3/3 months, private terms.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Manila* (str.), *Glenfulloch* (str.), *Glenshiel* (str.), *Tantalus* (str.), *Bombay* (str.).

For LONDON and ANTWERP.—*Carmarthenshire* (str.), *Conch* (str.).

For BREMEN.—*Karlsruhe* (str.).

For HAVRE and HAMBURG.—*Niobe* (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—*Natal* (str.).

For VICTORIA.—*Hankow* (str.).

For VANGUVER.—*Empress of Japan* (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—*Lyndhurst*, *Evandale*, *Peru* (str.).

For NEW YORK.—*P. N. Blanchard*, *Adam W. Spies*, *Sam Skolfield*, *Wandering Jew*, *Engelhorn*, *Energy* (str.), *Saint James*, *Celeste Burrill*.

For BALTIMORE.—*Fred. P. Litchfield*.

For AUSTRALIA.—*Pathan* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—

19, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.

19, Leeyuen, Chinese str., from Canton.

19, Propontis, British str., from Saigon.

19, Rosetta, British str., from Bombay.

19, Glenorchy, British str., from Japan.

19, Yamashiro Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.

20, Canton, British str., from London.

20, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.

20, Cheangchew, British str., from Straits.

20, Fushun, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

20, Progress, German str., from Hoihow.

20, Nanchang, British str., from Newchwang.

20, Sishan, British str., from Saigon.

21, Victoria, Swedish str., from Canton.

21, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.

21, Hailong, British str., from Tamsui.

21, Iser, British str., from St. Petersburg.

21, Jacob Christensen, Norw. str., from Moji.

21, Peacock, British str., from Anping.

21, Keong Wai, British str., from Bangkok.

21, Argyll, British str., from Moji.

21, Celeste Burrill, British str., from Shanghai.

22, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., from Kelung.

22, Catherine Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.

22, Chingping, Chinese str., from Canton.

22, Choysang, British str., from Canton.

22, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., from Swatow.

22, Nanyang, German str., from Chinkiang.

22, Thales, British str., from Tainanfoo.

22, Ingraban, German str., from Saigon.

22, Glengyle, British str., from London.

23, Ancona, British str., from Yokohama.

23, Inverlay, British str., from Saigon.

23, Kitty, British str., from Tientsin.

24, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.

24, Rio, German str., from Saigon.

24, Khedive, British str., from Shanghai.

24, Esmeralda, British str., from Manila.

24, Tai Lee, German str., from Swatow.

24, Ixion, British str., from Shanghai.

24, Devawongse, British str., from Bangkok.

24, Hankow, British str., from Moji.

24, Palamed, British str., from Liverpool.

24, Tetartos, German str., from Kobe.

25, Pathan, British str., from Kobe.

25, Namoa, British str., from Coast Ports.

25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

25, Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.

25, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.

25, Karlsruhe, German str., from Bremen.

25, Taisang, British str., from Chinkiang.

September— DEPARTURES.

18, China, British str., for San Francisco.

18, Sydney, French str., for Europe.

18, Monmouthshire, British str., for Nagasaki.

18, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.

18, Meifoo, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

18, Chwnshan, British str., for Amoy.

18, Taichow, British str., for Swatow.

18, Victoria, British str., for Tacoma.

19, Choysang, British str., for Canton.

19, Chingping, Chinese str., for Canton.

19, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.

19, Amigo, German str., for Newchwang.

19, Fuping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.

19, Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.

19, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.

19, Kweiyang, British str., for Swatow.

19, Myrmidon, British str., for London.

19, Sabine Rickmers, Ger. str., for Newchwang.

19, Tsianan, British str., for Australia.

19, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.

20, Continental, Dutch str., for Tientsin.

20, Deuteros, German str., for Bangkok.

20, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notzu.

20, Loosok, British str., for Bangkok.

20, Menelaus, British str., for Shanghai.

20, Rosetta, British str., for Shanghai.

21, Franines, Norw. str., for Bangkok.

21, Benvenue, British str., for Saigon.

21, Asloun, British str., for Victoria.

21, Cheangchew, British str., for Amoy.

21, Decima, German str., for Chefoo.

21, Fushun, Chinese str., for Canton.

21, Leeyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

21, Nanchang, German str., for Canton.

21, Canton, British str., for Shanghai.

22, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.

22, Glenorchy, British str., for London.

22, Iser, British str., for Vladivostok.

22, Oolong, British str., for London.

22, Victoria, Swedish str., for Newchwang.

23, Bygdo, Norw. str., for Amoy.

23, Kutsang, British str., for Calcutta.

23, Peiyang, German str., for Shanghai.

23, Progress, German str., for Newchwang.

23, Volute, British str., for Iloilo.

24, Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.

24, Boynton, British str., for Kutchinotzu.

24, China, German str., for Saigon.

24, Hailong, British str., for Tamsui.

24, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.

24, Stanfield, British bark, for Sandakan.

25, Glengyle, British str., for Shanghai.

25, Michael Jebson, German str., for Touron.

25, Phra C. Klao, British str., for Bangkok.

25, Sishan, British str., for Swatow.

25, Thales, British str., for Swatow.

25, Choysang, British str., for Shanghai.

25, Tai Lee, German str., for Swatow.

FOOCHOW.

September—

8, Haeshin, Chinese str., from Shanghai.

8, Diomed, British str., from Shanghai.

8, Osaka, British bark, from Shanghai.

8, Elisabeth, German bark, from Amoy.

8, Hermann, German str., from Hamburg.

9, Volunteer, Amr. 4-m. sch., from Shanghai.

10, Store Nordiske, Danish str., from a cruise.

12, Walter Siegfried, Brit. bk., from Shanghai.

12, Tsianan, British str., from Hongkong.

13, Claro Babuyan, British bark, from Japan.

13, Loksang, British str., from Swatow.

13, Myrmidon, British str., from Shanghai.

September— DEPARTURES.

8, Kwongmo, British str., for Tamsui.

9, Namoa, British str., for Hongkong.

9, Diomed, British str., for London.

11, Hermann, German str., for Amur.

12, Haeshin, Chinese str., for Shanghai.

13, Store Nordiske, Danish str., for a cruise.